

AFFECTIVE EXPRESSIONS IN JAPANESE

A Handbook of Value-Laden Words
in Everyday Japanese

by

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THE HOKUSEIDO PRESS

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Published by The Hokuseido Press
3-12, Kanda-Nishikicho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo

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INTRODUCTION

Affective expressions are short words or phrases which impart a particular nuance to the sentences in which they are used.

All languages have affective expressions which help to enrich communication by implying subtle differences, such as varying degrees of annoyance or resignation, skepticism or humor. Native speakers of a language use these expressions all the time to flavor their speech. They are usually quick to realize the implication of the affective expression, and they often act on it rather than on the direct meaning of the sentence. A large number of affective expressions are not slang terms, but are standard words used by every native speaker. Native speakers of English use words such as "I *really* can't help you now," or "that was a *stupid* thing to do," as value-laden terms which fall into the category of affective expressions because of the strong nuances they imply.

The Japanese language has a large number of affective expressions which are used in this manner. In most cases non-native speakers of Japanese who are studying the language fail to learn these expressions because they concentrate instead on learning the proper use of grammatical particles and the complex system of conjugating verbs. This is unfortunate since these expressions are in common use and are very important in accurate communication. Once the student of Japanese learns some of these expressions, they will be surprised to discover how often native speakers of Japanese employ affective expressions in both formal and informal communication.

Grammatically these expressions are easy to use. Most act as adverbs and are simply inserted into sentences as independent units which do not take any special grammatical particles. Placing them properly within a sentence is also uncomplicated, because they usually appear just before the word or phrase to which they refer. That is to say, the portion of the sentence following the affective expression contains the idea which is being emphasized.

Thus beginning students of Japanese who have a command of only a few basic sentence patterns can insert affective expressions where appropriate to greatly improve the quality of their speech. More advanced students of Japanese will find that the use of suitable affective expressions in more complex exchanges will give a texture to their speech that will increase their fluency much more effectively than simply expanding their vocabulary of basic terms. The use of these expressions will also allow them to communicate on a level which conveys subtleties and nuances, a level which is extremely important in adult communication.

In spite of the frequency with which affective expressions are used, and their importance to the Japanese language, it is almost impossible to find adequate explanations of their use and the nuances they carry. Most Japanese-English dictionaries give only single word translations of these terms, which rarely convey their full flavor and which usually fail to indicate their proper usage in Japanese social and cultural settings. Word and phrase lists for students of Japanese often omit these expressions to concentrate instead on subject-object-verb combinations which are more directly translatable into English. The problem which such publications are avoiding is the difficulty of giving simple translations for words which carry a range of meanings, and which are dependent upon particular types of social situations for their proper usage.

Therefore this handbook of affective expressions in Japanese has been prepared to help explain the social and cultural situations in which the expressions should be used, and to indicate the full range of English language equivalents for each expression.

This handbook is especially arranged for speakers of English who are students of Japanese, either at the beginning or advanced level, who wish to improve their Japanese language ability. The handbook contains fifty-one expressions arranged in alphabetical order which are commonly used in contemporary written and spoken Japanese. Each expression, given first in romanization and then in its kana version, is followed by a number of English words containing some

of the meanings of the expression. An English language explanation of the types of nuances implied by the expression and the categories of situations in which it can be used then appears. This explanation focuses on the cultural, sociological, and sometimes linguistic factors which determine the expression's proper use, although it also contains grammatical explanations when needed and occasionally comments on situations when the expression is best avoided.

Each explanation is followed by a number of example sentences which, if the student desires, can be memorized as a way of increasing both vocabulary and basic patterns, since each example contains a correct usage of the affective expression being explained. The example sentences are given first in kanji / kana, followed by romanization for students whose knowledge of spoken Japanese is stronger than their knowledge of written Japanese.

An English language translation which attempts to capture the nuances of the Japanese expression appears next. The affective expression in the Japanese romaji versions of the sentences as well as its English language equivalents are always indicated in special type. Occasionally the English language word which best conveys the nuance of the affective expression used in a particular sample sentence is not one of the words listed at the beginning of the section as a possible translation. In such cases the student will see how a sometimes wide range of words must be used to indicate to a native speaker of English the correct nuance of the Japanese expression. The English language translations of all sentences represent the conversational, but standard speech which would probably be used by a native speaker of American English. In cases where an expression has several implied meanings, each category of meaning is dealt with in a sub-section under the expression, and each sub-section has its own explanation and example sentences.

In preparing the sample sentences, every attempt was made to produce Japanese language sentences which were adult in tone and content. Some of the sentences reflect contemporary concerns while others might naturally appear in almost any Japanese language

conversation. All of them could be appropriately used by high school and university students as well as by full adult members of society. Sentences with unusual subject matter or which contained infrequently used grammatical structures were avoided, so the non-native Japanese speaker can be assured that the sample sentences represent standard, conversational, contemporary usage.

The Japanese language sample sentences employ all levels of politeness, from very informal to very polite. At times they are presented in what is known as the written style of contemporary Japanese as well. Teachers can use these various styles of politeness to illustrate to their students how these styles are used in Japan, while students who are unfamiliar with the levels of speech can use the Japanese language sample sentences to improve their ability to comprehend how the several levels of politeness are commonly used.

The English language translation of each sample sentence was of course designed to accurately convey the content of the sentence, but even more so its goal was to capture the nuance contained in the sentence. Because of this, the English language translations do not provide a word-for-word translated version of each sentence, but instead use wording which most accurately conveys the nuance of the sentence in words which a native American English speaker would find most natural. In a number of cases alternate translations of a sample sentence might be possible. Teachers and students using this as a textbook will find it useful to discuss those cases where other translations might be equally accurate.

Although this handbook has been prepared for English language speakers who are studying Japanese, in fact Japanese speakers who are studying English, particularly those from high school to very advanced levels, should also find it useful. Since they will be familiar with the Japanese language expression being described, they will be able to improve their English by studying the explanation provided for each expression and also be reading the explanations given at the beginning of each sub-section. Since the English language equivalents of each term will be in italics, they will be able to under-

stand the implications of the English language affective expression used in the sample sentences. Moreover, they will find a large number of correct English language sentences of native speaker fluency which they can memorize or use to add to their knowledge of English language sentence patterns.

It is the hope of the authors that both Japanese language teachers and English language teachers will find this handbook useful. We hope it will be used for vocabulary and pattern practice, for pronunciation and intonation drills. Further, it can be used in the classroom as the basis for promoting conversation and discussion among students about the use of proper speech in varying social situations. Which leads to our final hope for this handbook, that it will help to encourage empathy and mutual understanding between the Japanese people and their English speaking friends.

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はじめに

日本人は日常会話の中で、「やっぱり」、「さすが」、「どうせ」などの表現を好んで使います。これらの語句は、短いうちにもそれ自体に、驚嘆、期待、疑い、ためらい、あきらめ、など話者の微妙な感情を含んでいて、表現全体にある意味合いを持たせ、会話を生き生きとしたものにするのに役立っています。日本人なら誰でも聞いた瞬間、その意味するところを了解するこれらの表現も、日本語を学習する外国人にとっては何のことやら分らず、辞書を引いてもただ通りいっぺんの訳語しか見出せません。また、たとい意味が分っても、いかなる状況で、いかに使ったらよいかを完全に会得するのは至難のわざに近いでしょう。このような表現は、もちろん、どの国の言語にもあることと思われませんが、とくに日本語には、話者の感情を含む表現や言外に潜む話者の感情を表わす表現が多いようです。そして、これらの表現の使用が、外国人に日本語習得を困難と思わせる原因のひとつともなっていると考えられます。

「日本語は世界で最も難しい言語のひとつだ」とか、「日本語は非論理的だ」とかいう外国人の言葉をよく耳にします。たしかに日本語は、ほとんどの場合、彼等の母国語とは構造的にも音声的にも全く違います。また、外来語は別として、欧米の諸言語のように他の言語から意味を類推することも不可能です。しかし、これは、日本語が他の言語と異なるということであり、日本語が本質的に難しいということの意味するものではありません。日本語には日本語の論理性があり、そこに日本人の思考があります。このことを理解した上で適切な方法で学習すれば、日本語は決して習得困難な言語ではないと考えます。

例えば、外国人にはいささか唐突に聞える「やっぱり」にしても、短い語の中に凝縮した意味が込められ、聞く人はその場の状況から、それぞれ、「その後も引き続き」とか、「私が予想していた通り」、「常に考えていたように」、或いは、「世間の人々の意見と同じように」とかいう意味合いを直ちに汲みとることができます。そして、外国人学習者に対しても、このような語が発せられるに至る話し手の思考過程、それぞれの持つ意味合い、

発話における状況などの説明があれば、かなり理解可能となり、学習も容易になると思われます。現在に至るまで、この分野の研究・分析は日本語専門家の手によってなされてはいますが、外国人学習者のために、特に書かれた参考書はあまり見当たらないようです。

外国人の日本語学習を容易なものとする仕事の手初めとして、まず、日本人の感情的表現を扱うこととし、今回は、その中から、とりあえず、51の語句を選びました。それぞれの語句には例文を示し、英文による翻訳および解説を付しました。ひとつの語句がふたつ以上の意味を持つ場合には、番号をつけ、各々に意味・例文を示しておきました。なお、例文の日本語には、漢字かな混り、ローマ字の両表記法を用いました。

この種の語句は、簡単に文中に挿入して使うことができますので、上級の学習者はもとより、基礎の段階を終えた学習者が「日本語らしい日本語」を話す上でも、大いに役立つものと確信いたします。日本語を学習する外国人諸氏が、日本語を通じて日本および日本人を理解するために、この小冊子が何らかの形で、有効な手助けとなるよう願ってやみません。

ついでながら、この小冊子は、外国人諸氏のための日本語学習の手引きとしてのみでなく、日本人学生諸氏が英語を学習する際の参考としても活用していただければ幸いです。

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国際日本語普及協会会員
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付：ローマ字表記法

1. ローマ字は標準式（修正ヘボン式）を採用する。
2. 長母音は母音文字の上に - を付す【例：dōse, sōtō】。
ただし、このうち i 音は ii, 漢字熟語の e 音は ei と記す【例：ii（好い, 良い）; katei, keiei（家庭, 経営）】。
3. 一音節休止のつまる音は後に来る子音を重ねて示す【例：kitto, yappari】。
ただし、ch, sh, ts 音はそれぞれ, tch, ssh, tts のように記す【例：matchi, zasshi, yattsu】。
4. 鼻音 n は、p, b, m 音の前では m とする【例：sampo, shimbun, hommei】。
鼻音 n の後に母音または y 音 n 音が来る場合、n 列音との混同を避けるため ' で節の区切りを示す【例：han'i, ren'ai, hon'yaku; han'nin, don'na】。

Akumade あくまで completely, totally, stubbornly,
to the last

EXPLANATION: In its basic meaning, **akumade** means *complete* or filled up. In referring to responsibility, for example, it means to take responsibility *completely*. As an affective expression, it is used to indicate some action that is *complete* or *total*, or tenaciously held, or one that will continue *to the very end*. A sense of being stubborn or *determined* is conveyed by this expression, which is really a logical extension of its basic meaning.

SECTION A Typical Usages

Illustrated below are examples of the expression **akumade** in which its basic meaning is clearly retained.

EXAMPLES

1. 自分の言動にはあくまで責任を取らなければなりません。
Jibun no gendō ni wa akumade sekinin o toranakereba narimasen.
You must take responsibility *completely* for your own words and actions.
2. 事件の容疑者はあくまで「自分は白だ」と言い張っている。
Jiken no yōgisha wa akumade "jibun wa shiro da" to ii-hatte iru.
The suspect in the case *stubbornly* protested saying, "I am totally innocent."
3. 私たち 住民は高層ビルの建設にあくまで反対です。
Watakushitachi jūmin wa kōsō-biru no kensetsu ni akumade hantai desu.
We local residents are *absolutely* opposed to the construction of the high-rise building.

SECTION B Individual Opinion Expressed

This section illustrates how the expression is used when someone is expressing a personal opinion. Note that in such cases the typical Japanese usage is to end the statement with a *ga*. This indicates some reserve on the part of the speaker and it provides a chance for the listener to respond.

EXAMPLES

4. これはあくまで 私の個人的な意見ですが。
Kore wa akumade watakushi no kojīn-teki na iken desu ga.
 Well, this is *purely* my personal opinion.
5. あくまで仮定として言っているのですが。
Akumade Katei to shite itte iru no desu ga.
 This is *simply* an assumption on my part.
6. あくまで想像にすぎませんが。
Akumade sozō ni sugimasen ga.
 This is *nothing more than* a guess.

Dōse どうせ after all, of course, anyway, at any rate, anyhow

EXPLANATION: **Dōse** is used to signal the conclusion which can be drawn from an informal discussion, or from a long thought process. It does not mean the conclusion was purposely drawn, but rather that regardless of how the matter was considered, this seems to be the conclusion inevitably reached. There is a slight tone of resignation in the expression, and the feeling that the result was incapable (as shown in Section A). In its broadest application (in Section B), it means "Since you are doing A anyhow, why not also do B?" It can also be used to imply that the listener agrees with the logic of the speaker and reaches the same conclusion (as is illustrated in Section C).

SECTION A Tone of Resignation

As shown below, the expression **dōse** indicates that a conclusion is being accepted, although with a sense of resignation on the part of the speaker.

EXAMPLES

1. どうせ彼にできるはずはない、私がやっしまおう。
Dōse kare ni dekiru hazu wa nai, watakushi ga yatte shimaō.

At any rate, since he won't possibly be able to do it, I'll do it myself.

2. 私 がなにを 主張しても、どうせ他人には分ってもらえないのだ。
Watakushi ga nani o shuchō shite mo, dōse tanin ni wa wakatte moraenai no da.

It doesn't matter what I propose, no one understands it *anyhow*.

SECTION B Broad Application

This is a conversational application of the expression, which indicates a link between actions. A similar feeling can also be detected in the examples given in Section A above.

EXAMPLES

3. どうせ 郵便局へ行くのなら切手を買って来てくださいませんか。
Dōse yūbinkyoku e iku no nara kitte o katte kite kudasaimasen ka?

Since you're going to the post office *anyway*, won't you please buy me some stamps?

4. どうせ 日本語を勉強するのなら、漢字と仮名も覚えたほうが
Dōse Nihongo o benkyō suru no nara, kanji to kana mo oboeta ho ga
いいですよ。
ii desu yo.

Since you are going to study Japanese *anyhow*, you might as well learn kanji and kana at the same time.

5. 人間はどうせ死ぬのだから、好きなことをして暮そう。
Ningen wa dōse shinu no da kara, suki na koto o shite kurasō.

Since all human beings must die *sooner or later*, we might as well spend our time doing things we like.

SECTION C Agree with the Speaker

Dōse can also imply that the listener agrees with the logic of the speaker and reaches the same conclusion.

EXAMPLES

6. A: きみはほんとうにばかだな。
Kimi wa hontō ni baka da na.

A: You're really dumb, aren't you?

B: どうせ, ぼくはばかなんだ。
dōse, boku wa baka na n da!

B: *For sure*, I'm really dumb!

7. どうせ 私 はばかなんです。
Dōse watakushi wa baka na n desu.

Of course, (as you imply) I'm a fool!

Futo ふと suddenly, unexpectedly, involuntarily, casually

EXPLANATION: **Futo** always refers to a situation involving motion or action, but the actions it refers to are always involuntary rather than planned. As shown in Section A, it can refer to a mental action in which some thought or recollection *unexpectedly* occurs. Sections B and C show how the expression is used to refer to physical actions which took place in the same unplanned or *involuntary* manner.

SECTION A A Sudden Thought

Futo can connote some mental action, usually a thought or recollection which occurred *unexpectedly*.

EXAMPLES

1. テレビを見ているうちに, ふと 昔 のことを思い出した。
Terebi o mite iru uchi ni, futo mukashi no koto o omoidashita.

While watching television, I *suddenly* remembered something from the past.

2. あれこれ 考え 悩んでいたが, ふと いい アイディア が 頭 に
Are kore kangae nayande ita ga, futo ii aidia ga atama ni
浮んだ。
ukanda.

My mind was wandering, when *suddenly* I got a good idea.

3. 推理小説 を 夢中 で 読んでいて ふと 気が つくと, もう 夜中の
Sui-ri-shōsetsu o muchō de yonde ite futo ki ga tsuku to, mō yonaka no

三時を過ぎていた。

san-ji o sugite ita.

I was absorbed in the detective novel when I *suddenly* realized that it was past three o'clock in the morning.

SECTION B An Unexpected Action

When used to refer to some physical action which happened *involuntarily* or instinctively, the expression *futo* is used as shown below.

EXAMPLES

4. ふと 耳を澄ますと、草むらで 鳴く 虫の 声が聞こえる。

Futo mimi o sumasu to, kusamura de naku mushi no koe ga kikoeru.

I *suddenly* pricked up my ears and coming from the bushes could hear the sound of an insect.

5. 本から目を離して ふと見ると、外には 雪が降っていた。

Hon kara me o hanashite futo miru to, soto ni wa yuki ga futte ita.

My eyes wandered from the book, when I *happened* to look up and saw that it was snowing outside.

6. 暗やみの中でふと手を伸ばすと、何か 柔かなものが

Kurayami no naka de futo te o nobasu to, nanika yawaraka na mono ga

指先に触れた。

yubisaki ni fureta.

In the dark I *instinctively* put out my hand, and felt something soft with my fingers.

SECTION C A Trivial Matter

When used in the phrase *futo shita koto*, the expression *futo* indicates something that is of minor importance or trivial, hence its possible translations as *without knowing it* or *casually*.

EXAMPLES

7. 私たち はふとしたことで 友だち になりました。

Watakushitachi wa futo shita koto de tomodachi ni narimashita.

Almost *without knowing it* we became friends.

8. 非常に 仲 がよかった二人がふとしたことで別れてしまった。
Hijo ni naka ga yokatta futari ga futo shita koto de wakarete shimatta.
 The two friends who were so close *casually* drifted apart.
9. ふとしたことがきっかけでこの仕事を始めました。
Futo shita koto ga kikkake de kono shigoto o hajimemashita.
 I began this job *almost accidentally*.

Hatashite はたして sure enough, just as I thought,
 (果して) as expected, really

EXPLANATION: In its basic meaning, **hatashite** expresses the sense that something turned out just as had been expected. The way it is used can be divided into two categories, although they are rather similar in meaning. The first indicates something that developed as expected (the basic meaning of the expression), while the second indicates the speaker doubts whether something is *truly* so or is *definitely* the case. It can be seen from all the possible translations given above that most of the meanings overlap to some degree.

SECTION A As Expected

When something has developed just as the speaker thought it would, **hatashite** is used as illustrated below.

EXAMPLES

1. 前 からうわさされていた二人は、はたしてこの春結婚することになった。
Mae kara uwasa sarete ita futari wa, hatashite kono haru kekkon suru koto ni natta.
Sure enough, those two who have been gossipped about for so long will be getting married in the spring.
2. 朝 から空模様があやしいと思っていたが、はたして午後から雨が降り出した。
Asa kara sora-moyō ga ayashii to omotte ita ga, hatashite gogo kara ame ga furi-dashita.
 I thought the sky looked threatening in the morning, and *just*

as I expected it began to rain in the afternoon.

3. 外地 にいる 友人 から 便りがくる 頃 だと思っていたが、はた
Gaichi ni iru yūjin kara tayori ga kuru koro da to omotte ita ga, hata-
 して 長い 手紙 が届いた。
shite nagai tegami ga todoita.

I was thinking it was about time for a letter from my friend who is abroad, when just as I expected a long letter came.

SECTION B Implies the Speaker's Doubt

To indicate the speaker doubts whether something is actually so, the expression is used as in the examples below.

EXAMPLES

4. これがはたして 一番いい方法かどうか、結果をみなければ 分
Kore ga hatashite ichiban ii hōhō ka dō ka, kekka o minakereba waka-
 りません。
rimasen.

I won't know whether or not this is really the best method until I can see the results.

5. 彼 は 忙しい 人 だから、 今日 たずねても はたして 会える か
Kare wa isogashii hito da kara, kyō tazunete mo hatashite aeru ka
 どうか 分かりません。
dō ka wakarimasen.

Since he is so busy, I don't know if we'll really be able to meet today or not.

6. 野党 が 政権 を 握っても、 はたして 期待 通りの 政治 が 行なわれる
Yatō ga seiken o nigitte mo, hatashite kitai dōri no seiji ga okonawareru
 かどうか は 疑問 です。
ka dō ka wa gimon desu.

Whether or not the opposition party would really be able to institute the kind of government hoped for once they got political power is a real question.

Ichio いちおう generally, by and large, for the time being,
(一応) for the present

EXPLANATION: When used in a sentence, this expression adds the nuance that the topic of the sentence is general rather than detailed, fleeting rather than prolonged, or temporary rather than permanent. Since the fleetingness it stresses refers to an action, it appears most commonly just before a verb (see examples 1 and 2), though it can appear just before the subject (examples 3 and 4).

SECTION A To Mean Generally

This usage often conveys the meaning that the topic of the sentence has not been finalized, or that it is being discussed as a generality. It means *by and large* or *to a certain extent*.

EXAMPLES

1. 私 は 日本語 はいちおう 話せます が、 上手ではありませ
Watakushi wa Nihongo wa ichio hanasemasu ga, jozu de wa arimase-
ん。
n.

I can express myself in Japanese *to some extent*, but not very well.

2. 歌舞伎についていちおう知っていますが、 詳しく はありませ
Kabuki ni tsuite ichio shitte imasu ga, kuwashiku wa arimase-
ん。
n.

Generally speaking, I know about kabuki, but not in any detail.

3. これはあしたの会議の議題です。いちおう目を通しておいてく
Kore wa ashita no kaigi no gidai desu. Ichio me o toshite oite ku-
ださい。
dasai.

These are the topics for tomorrow's meeting. Please *just* glance over them, would you?

SECTION B To Mean Temporarily

The meaning of this expression given in Section A above shades

off easily into that given in this section. *Ichio* used in this way means *for the time being*, or *provisionally*.

EXAMPLES

4. 代金 はいちおう半分 だけ払ってください。
Daikin wa ichio hambun dake haratte kudasai.
For now would you please pay half of the cost?
5. いちおう ホテルに部屋を取って、ゆっくりアパートを探す つも
Ichio hoteru ni heya o totte, yukkuri apato o sagasu tsumo-
 りです。
ri desu.
For the time being I will have a room in a hotel, and intend to take my time looking for an apartment.

Isso いっそ had better, would rather

EXPLANATION: This expression indicates a decision has been arrived at as the result of a quick attempt to find a solution to a problem. It means that the solution was reached without having carefully thought over the problem.

EXAMPLES

1. こんなに 苦しむ くらいなら、いっそ死んでしまいたい。
Kon'na ni kurushimu kurai nara, isso shinde shimaitai.
If I'm ever reduced to such suffering, I would rather die.
2. 日本 にいてもあまりおもしろいことはない、いっそ外国へ行っ
Nihon ni ite mo amari omoshiroi koto wa nai, isso gaikoku e it-
 てしまおうか。
te shimao ka.
There is nothing very interesting to do if I stay in Japan, I should probably move to a different country?
3. 夫: この家も大分古くなって方々よごれてきたね。
Otto: "Kono uchi mo daibu furuku natte hōō yogorete kita ne."
 妻: いっそ売ってしましましょう。
Tsuma: "Isso utte shimaimashō."

Husband: "This house is so old that it's dirty everywhere, isn't it?"

Wife: "*That's right.* Let's sell it."

Iyo-iyo いよいよ increasingly, more and more, all the more, still more, at last, finally, soon, about to

EXPLANATION: This expression gives a sense of movement or progress to the topic being discussed in the sentence. It indicates a process, one which is increasing, or growing more definite, or which is gradually coming to a conclusion. It often appears after the subject of the sentence and just before the final verb or verb phrase, a placement which adds to the feeling of the verb undergoing a movement through time. Its meaning is rather broad, as can be seen from the many possible translations given above, and it can be used in a large number of situations, as discussed below. In its broadest sense (discussed in Section E), it refers to an eventuality which may occur at some unspecific time in the future.

SECTION A To Imply Growing Intensity

In this sense the expression is similar to the Japanese word *masu-masu*, and it gives the sense of something that is *gradually* growing in intensity.

EXAMPLES

1. 台風 が 近づく につれて、風 はいよいよ 激しく なって きた。
Taifu ga chikazuku ni tsurete, kaze wa iyo-iyo hageshiku natte kita.
As the typhoon came closer, the winds got *stronger and stronger*.
2. 国際情勢 は 去年 の 秋 頃 から いよいよ 深刻さ を 増して きた。
Kokusai-jōsei wa kyonen no aki goro kara iyo-iyo shinkoku-sa o mashite kita.

Since the autumn of last year, the international situation has grown *more and more* serious.

SECTION B To Imply Certainty

Used on this sense, the expression **iyō-iyō** gives a feeling of something that is coming to be proved true based on a developing set of circumstances. It refers to a continuing process that is still taking shape.

EXAMPLES

3. 大会の中止はいよいよ間違いない。

Taikai no chūshi wa iyo-iyō machigai nai.

It now seems quite *certain* the meeting will be called off.

4. 山田氏の社長就任はいよいよたしかとなった。

Yamada-shi no shachō shūnin wa iyo-iyō tashika to natta.

As things stand Mr. Yamada's appointment to the company presidency is *quite likely* to take place.

SECTION C To Imply a Sense of Process

This expression can be used to imply a strong sense of process, and refers to a process either in its beginning or ending stages. It is similar to the Japanese expression *tsui ni* meaning *finally* or *at last*, and also similar to the expression *tō-tō* meaning *after all*, but these expressions are used to refer to the completion of a process, while **iyō-iyō** refers to a process either in its beginning or ending stages. In other words, it indicates some process that is in the beginning stages, has just begun, or will soon draw to a close.

EXAMPLES

5. いよいよ本格的な冬がやってきた。

Iyo-iyō honkaku-teki na fuyu ga yatte kita.

Real winter weather has *finally* arrived.

6. 日本での留学生活もいよいよ終わろうとしている。

Nihon de no ryūgaku-seikatsu mo iyo-iyō owarō to shite iru.

My student days in Japan are *at last* coming to an end.

SECTION D About to Start

Used in this sense, the expression **iyō-iyō** refers to some process

that is about to begin, and it means *about to be* or *imminently*.

EXAMPLES

7. いよいよ 眠り に入ろうとした時, 電話 の ベルが 鳴った。

Iyo-iyo nemuri ni hairō to shita toki, denwa no beru ga natta.

Just as I was *about to* fall asleep, the telephone rang.

8. いよいよ 出発 する 時 になって, 切符 を 買って いない ことに
Iyo-iyo shuppatsu suru toki ni natte, kippu o katte inai koto ni
気が 付いた。

ki ga tsuita.

Just as I was *about to* leave, I noticed I had forgotten to buy my ticket.

SECTION E To Refer to a Future Eventuality

This expression can also be used to indicate some eventuality which might take place in the future. In such a case it might be translated into English as *whatever happens*, or *whatever*.

EXAMPLES

9. これだけ 貯蓄 があれば, いよいよ の 時 にも 大丈夫だ。

Kore dake chochiku ga areba, iyo-iyo no toki ni mo daijōbu da.

As long as I have this much money in savings, I'll be okay *in any eventuality*.

10. いよいよ という 時 の 準備に, 携帯食糧 を 買って おいた ほうが
Iyo-iyo to iu toki no jumbi ni, keitai-shokuryō o katte oita hō ga
いい ですよ。

ii desu yo.

It is a good idea to have provisions prepared for *whatever* might occur.

Izure いずれ which, either way, regardless, in any case

EXPLANATION: The expression *izure* means *which*, or which one of several, as shown in Section A. The expression can expand slightly to alter its meaning, but always within the context of

several options or possibilities. For example, when it becomes **izure mo**, as shown in Section B, its meaning becomes *whichever*, or *both*. When it changes to **izure ni shite mo**, shown in Section C, its meaning becomes *regardless of which*, or *in either case*. These are the three most common usages of the expression **izure**. However, when **izure** is used by itself to refer to a time condition, as shown in Section D, it means *soon* or *in the near future*.

SECTION A Which of Several

This usage calls upon the basic meaning of **izure** to ask *which* of several options is preferred.

EXAMPLES

1. A案とB案, いずれを取るか 検討中 です。

A-an to B-an, izure o toru ka kentō-chū desu.

Which one to adopt, proposal A or proposal B, is now under consideration.

2. 中国料理 と 西洋料理 のいずれがおいしいかを 議論 すること
Chūgoku-ryōri to Seiyō-ryōri no izure ga oishii ka o giron suru koto
はほとんど無意味です。

wa hotondo muimi desu.

The question of *which* is better, Chinese or Western food, is almost not worth discussing.

3. 家庭と 仕事 のいずれを優先させるかで, 彼女は 今 真剣に
Katei to shigoto no izure o yūsen saseru ka de, kanojo wa ima shinken ni
悩んでいる。

nayande iru.

She is perplexed about *which* she should give priority to, a home or an outside job.

SECTION B Whichever

The expression **izure mo** is used to mean *whichever* or *either one*. It is similar to the Japanese expressions *dochira mo* and *1 or dore mo*, which also mean *whichever* or *either one*. **Izure mo** can also be translated as *both*, since it indicates an acceptance of two things.

EXAMPLES

4. 両力士 いずれも 十四勝 で 千秋楽 に 出場 した。
Ryōrikishi izure mo jūyon-shō de senshūroku ni shutsujō shita.

After two wrestlers got fourteen victories, *both of them* took part in the last day of the sumō matches (Senshūroku).

NOTE: This means that both of the sumō wrestlers were undefeated during the previous fourteen days of the sumō tournament and the two undefeated wrestlers faced each other in the fifteenth, or final day of the tournament.

5. 日本 では 春 と 秋 はいずれも 気候が 温和で 暮し やすい。
Nihon de wa haru to aki wa izure mo kikō ga onwa de kurashi yasui.

Living is easy in Japan in *both* the spring and autumn when the temperatures are mild.

SECTION C Regardless of Which

The expression *izure ni shite mo* means *regardless of which one, or whatever* the outcome, *or either way*.

EXAMPLES

6. 「イエス」か「ノー」か、いずれにしても 決定 次第お知らせします。
“Iesu” ka “Nō” ka, izure ni shite mo kettei shidai oshirase shimasu.

I will let you know as soon as I decide, *regardless of whether* the answer is yes or no.

7. あしたは 仕事 の 都合で うかがえる か どう か 分かりませんが いずれにしても お電話 します。
Ashita wa shigoto no tsugō de ukagaeru ka dō ka wakarimasen ga izure ni shite mo o-denwa shimasu.

Depending on tomorrow's workload, I don't know if I can see you or not, but *in either case* I'll give you a call.

SECTION D Soon or Someday

When referring to time, *izure* indicates either the *near future*, shown in examples 8 and 9 below, or it indicates some point in the future

someday, as shown in examples 10 and 11. The expression indicates that the exact date cannot be set, but the speaker hopes it will be soon.

EXAMPLES

8. いずれ近いうちにうかがいます。
Izure chikai uchi ni ukagaimasu.
I'll come to see you *sooner or later*.
9. いずれお目にかかって詳しくご説明いたします。
Izure o-me ni kakatte kuwashiku go-setsumei itashimasu.
I'll explain in detail when we meet *one of these days*.
10. 犯行は隠していても、いずれ発覚するに違いない。
Hankō wa kakushite ite mo, izure hakkaku suru ni chigai nai.
The crime will be uncovered *someday* regardless of how it's concealed.
11. この静かな村にも、いずれ(は)都市化の波が押し寄せてくるのだ。
Kono shizuka na mura ni mo, izure (wa) toshi-ka no nami ga oshiyosete kuru no da.
Even in this quiet village, the wave of urbanization will *someday* sweep in.

Jitsu ni じつに really, very
(実に)

EXPLANATION: The usage and meaning of this expression should be quite clear to speakers of English because its meaning corresponds closely with the English translation given above. It is placed either at the beginning of a sentence or just before the final, or emphasized, portion of a sentence as a way of emphasizing that the information following the expression is true, or accurate, or sincerely given. The expression *jitsu ni* modifies the adverb or adjective which follows it somewhere in the sentence. For example, in sentence No. 1 the *jitsu ni* (*really*) refers to *konde iru* (*heavy* or

crowded), meaning it is the traffic which is *really* heavy.

EXAMPLES

1. じつに 道 が混んでいますね。
Jitsu ni michi ga konde imasu ne.
Traffic is *really* heavy, isn't it?
2. 山田さん は 親切 でじつにいい人ですね。
Yamada-san wa shinsetsu de jitsu ni ii hito desu ne.
Mr. Yamada is kind, and is a *really* fine person, isn't he?
3. じつに面白い 映画 でした。最後まで 息もつかないほどでした。
Jitsu ni omoshiroi eiga deshita. Saigo made iki mo tsukenai hodo deshita.
That was a *really* interesting movie. I was absorbed in it until it was over.

Jitsu wa じつは in fact, really, honestly, truly
(実は)

EXPLANATION: The expression **jitsu wa** has two broad usages. The first is based on its literal meaning, that of confirming the truth or correctness of some piece of information. When used in this manner, the speaker is confirming or asserting that what follows is *in fact* the actual situation, as shown in Section A. The second usage, as shown in Section B, carries with it a somewhat polite implication. It means the speaker is displaying some reserve (considered a very polite trait among the Japanese) in making the statement which follows the expression in the sentence.

SECTION A To Confirm a Fact

When the correctness, accuracy or truth of something is emphasized, the expression **jitsu wa** can be used. It is often used to indicate that an actual situation might be contrary to the commonly held view, in which case the idea following the expression in the sentence is emphasized as the correct view.

EXAMPLES

1. 彼はごく平凡な人間だと言われているが、じつは非常に
Kare wa goku heibon na ningen da to iwarete iru ga, jitsu wa hijō ni
すぐれた才能の持ち主だ。
sugureta sainō no mochinushi da.

He is said to be a rather ordinary person, but *in fact* he is an especially capable man.

2. 社長は仕事には非常に厳しくて冷いようだが、じつは大
Shachō wa shigoto ni wa hijō ni kibishikute tsumetai yō da ga, jitsu wa tai-
へん心の優しい人である。
hen kokoro no yasashii hito de aru.

The boss is very strict about work and seems to be cold-hearted, but *really* he is a warm-hearted person.

3. 二人の関係は大へん良いように見えるが、じつはうちでは
Futari no kankei wa taihen yoi yō ni mieru ga, jitsu wa uchi de wa
夫婦げんかばかりしているそうだ。
fufu-genka bakari shite iru so da.

On the surface it seems their relationship is very good, but *in fact* that couple does nothing but fight at home.

4. この会社はすべて順調にやっているようだが、じつは倒産
Kono kaisha wa subete junchō ni itte iru yō da ga, jitsu wa tōsan
寸前だという。
sunzen da to iu.

The company seems to be completely sound, but I am told that *in fact* they are about to go into bankruptcy.

SECTION B To Express Reservation

Jitsu wa at the beginning of a sentence or phrase, especially when a slight pause is made after the expression is spoken, indicates some degree of reserve on the part of the speaker. It also can mean that the speaker is about to express something that is sincerely meant.

EXAMPLES

5. じつは、会社をやめたいと思います。
Jitsu wa, kaisha o yametai to omoimasu.

Frankly, I'd like to quit this job.

6. じつは、大切な書類をなくしてしまいました。

Jitsu wa, *taisetsu na shorui o nakushite shimaimashita.*

To be honest, I'm afraid I lost some important documents.

7. じつは、ちょっと個人的な相談があるのですが。

Jitsu wa, *chotto kojīn-teki na sōdan ga aru no desu ga.*

There is actually a private matter I'd like to talk over.

8. じつは、こんど結婚することになりました。

Jitsu wa, *kondo kekkon suru koto ni shimashita.*

I'd like to inform you that we've decided to get married. (In polite Japanese this is a proper way to inform someone of one's forthcoming marriage. The speaker indicates his reserve, even in making this announcement.)

Kekkyoku けっきよく in the end, consequently, after all,
(結局) finally, ultimately

EXPLANATION: This expression originated from the Japanese game of *go* in reference to the final play of the game. It retains that sense of finality and near completion in popular usage and indicates something that is in its *final stage*, or it is used to preface a *conclusion* which is the result of some action, thought or set of factors. These two basically similar usages are illustrated below.

SECTION A In the End

A common usage of **kekkyoku** is to refer to something that is in its *final stage*, or *almost done* or nearing completion.

EXAMPLES

1. 三時間 議論を続けたが、けっきよく結論は出なかった。

San-jikan giron o tsuzuketa ga, kekkyoku ketsuron wa denakatta.

The discussion went on for three hours and in the end no conclusion was reached.

2. 高校を出てから大学に行くか就職するか迷ったが、結

Kōkō o dete kara daigaku ni iku ka shūshoku suru ka mayotta ga, kek-

局 進学 に決めた。
kyoku shingaku ni kimeta.

I was perplexed about whether to go on to university or to get a job after leaving high school, but I *finally* decided to go on to university.

3. マラソンが始まった時には千人以上もいたが、けっきよく最後まで走ったのは八十人だけだった。
Marason ga hajimatta toki ni wa sen-nin ijō mo ita ga, kekkyoku saigo made hashitta no wa hachijū-nin dake datta.

When the marathon began there were over 1,000 people participating, but *in the end* only 80 runners were left.

SECTION B In Conclusion

Kekkyoku is also used as an expression to indicate a conclusion or final result; in that case it immediately precedes the stated result. This expression is used the same way as the expression *tsumari*, Section A, which is discussed elsewhere in this book.

EXAMPLES

4. あなたの言っていることも、けっきよく私の意見と同じ
Anata no itte iru koto mo, kekkyoku watakushi no iken to onaji
ではありませんか。
de wa arimasen ka.

In sum, isn't what you are saying just the same as my opinion?

5. 彼は非常に厳しいことを言っているが、けっきよく愛情の
Kare wa hijō ni kibishii koto o itte iru ga, kekkyoku aijo no
表現なのです。
hyōgen na no desu.

He is always awfully critical about you, but *in fact* that is his way of expressing affection.

6. 二人の論争は、けっきよくお金の問題なのだ。
Futari no ronso wa, kekkyoku o-kane no mondai na no da.
Their quarrels are *ultimately* about money.

Kitto きっと probably, most likely, presumably, certainly,
surely, no doubt, always

EXPLANATION: **Kitto** can be used to express either a mild or a definite probability for a situation which the speaker thinks will occur. Grammatically it can appear almost anywhere in a sentence, but it is usually placed just before the word whose meaning is being emphasized.

SECTION A Mild Implication

Used in this sense, **kitto** is similar to the Japanese expression *tabun*, which indicates a presumption or a probability.

EXAMPLES

1. 今夜 はひどく 冷える, あしたはきっと 雪になる だろう。
Kon'ya wa hidoku hieru, ashita wa kitto yuki ni naru darō.
It is so cold tonight, it will *probably* be snowing tomorrow.
2. 吉田さん はまだ 来ません, きっと 道 が混んでいる んでしょう。
Yoshida-san wa mada kimasen, kitto michi ga konde iru n deshō.
Mr. Yoshida hasn't come yet, *most likely* because of heavy traffic.

SECTION B Definite Implication

When used to express the feeling that a situation is bound to occur, the expression **kitto** becomes similar to the Japanese word *kanarazu*, which means *no doubt* or *surely*. It implies a certainty or definiteness on the part of the speaker, as illustrated in the examples below.

EXAMPLES

3. お酒 を飲むと 翌日 はきっと 胃の 調子 が悪い。
O-sake o nomu to yokujitsu wa kitto i no chōshi ga warui.
When I drink sake I *always* have an upset stomach the following day.
4. 手術 さえ 受ければ, あなたの 病気はきっと 直ります。
Shujutsu sae ukereba, anata no byōki wa kitto naorimasu.

If you'll only have this operation you'll *surely* get better.

5. A: 近い うち, また いらっしゃって ください ね。

Chikai uchi, mata irasshatte kudasai ne.

A: Please come again soon.

- B: はい, きっと うかがいます。

Hai, kitto ukagai masu.

B: Yes, *I will.* (Yes, *for sure.*)

Masaka まさか surely not, impossible, absolutely not

EXPLANATION: This expression is always used to indicate a negative response and it gives the sense that a certain happening will not take place. It is placed in the sentence usually just before the word or phrase being emphasized, and the final verb of the sentence almost always has a negative ending.

SECTION A Implies an Impossibility

The expression can be used to indicate a situation which the speaker asserts will not occur or could not have occurred. The final verb often ends in *nai darō* or *hazu ga nai*, indicating the speaker's feeling of improbability. It can sometimes be used alone as a reply to a statement, as in a case where one person says, "I saw Nagai-san on the Ginza yesterday," and the listener replies simply, "**Masaka!**" (*Impossible!*)

EXAMPLES

1. まさか あの 人 が そんな ばかな こと を する はず がない。

Masaka ano hito ga sonna baka na koto o suru hazu ga nai.

Surely he won't do something that bad.

2. 彼女 はきのう 新婚旅行 に 出かけた の だから, まさか 東京 には
Kanojo wa kinō shinkon-ryoko ni dekaketa no da kara, masaka Tōkyō ni wa
いない でしょう。

inai deshō.

Since she left on her honeymoon yesterday, it's *impossible* that she would be in Tokyo.

SECTION B Against Common Sense

This expression can also imply an assertion that a situation cannot take place because of circumstances, or it cannot take place because it is opposed to common sense, i.e. we cannot afford to let it happen because we fear the consequences.

EXAMPLES

3. お金 がないからといって、まさか他人 の お金 を 使う わけに
O-kane ga nai kara to itte, masaka tanin no o-kane o tsukau wake ni
 はいかない。
wa ikanai.

Even if I have no money of my own, I *cannot* use anyone else's money.

4. 野球 を 見たいが、まさか 会社 を 休んで 行く ことは できない。
Yakyū o mitai ga, masaka kaisha o yasunde iku koto wa dekinai.

I'd like to see a baseball game, but I *cannot* take off from work.

SECTION C Some Eventuality

This expression is also used to refer to an event that might possibly occur at some unspecific time in the future. Such an event might be a fire, an earthquake, a war or even the collapse of society. All these could occur, though exactly when is unknown. The examples below show how the expression is used in this broad sense.

EXAMPLES

5. 子供 は まさかの 時 にも 困らない ように、強い 人間 に 育
Kodomo wa masaka no toki ni mo komaranai yō ni, tsuyoi ningen ni sode-
 たい ものです。
tetai mono desu.

Children should be raised to be strong people who can *overcome* any difficulty.

6. まさかの 時に 備えて、食料品 は 一週間分 ぐらい 余分に 買
Masaka no toki ni sonaete, shokuryōhin wa isshūkan-bun gurai yobun ni ka-
 っ て おいた ほうが いい です よ。
tte oita hō ga ii desu yo.

In order to prepare for an *emergency*, it would be a good idea to have an extra week's supply of food.

7. まさかの時には、この鞆だけ持ってうちを出るつもりです。
 Masaka no toki ni wa, kono kaban dake motte uchi o deru tsumori desu.

When the *emergency* comes, I plan to just grab this bag and run out of the house.

Masa ni まさに surely, certainly, really, just, about to,
 (正に・将に) exactly

EXPLANATION: The expression **masa ni** can be used in two major ways. It can be used in the assertive sense, as discussed in Section A (正に **masa ni**), to declare that something is *surely* or *certainly* so. Section B (将に **masa ni**) discusses how it is used in a time sense, to refer to something that is on the point of action, and it can be translated as *just as* or *about to*.

SECTION A (正に **masa ni**) Assertive Usage

When used in this sense, the expression **masa ni** is similar to the Japanese expression *hontō ni* (really, honestly).

EXAMPLES

1. 私 が言いたかったのは、まさにそのことです。
Watakushi ga iitakatta no wa, masa ni sono koto desu.
 What I wanted to say was *exactly* that.
2. 富士山 はまさに 日本一 美しい 山 と言えるでしょう。
Fujisan wa masa ni Nippon-ichi utsukushii yama to ieru deshō.
 Surely we can say that Mt. Fuji is *certainly* Japan's most beautiful mountain.
3. 頂上 からの 眺め はまさに 一幅 の名画 のようだ。
Chōjō kara no nagame wa masa ni ippuku no meiga no yō da.
 The view from the summit looks *just* like a beautiful painting.

SECTION B (将に **masa ni**) In Reference to Time

When used in reference to time, **masa ni** indicates something that

is at the point of action.

EXAMPLES

4. プラットホームに駆け付けると、電車のドアはまさに締まるところだった。
Purattohōmu ni kaketsukeru to, densha no doa wa masa ni shimaru tokoro datta.

The train door was *just about to* close as I rushed onto the platform.

5. 大統領は今まさに飛行機のタラップを降りるところです。
Daitōryō wa ima masa ni hikōki no tarappu o oriru tokoro desu.

The president is *about to* descend from the ramp of the plane.

6. 勇敢な消防士はまさに焼け落ちようとしている家の中に飛び込んで子供を救い出した。
Yūkan na shōbōshi wa masa ni yakeochiyō to shite iru ie no naka ni tobikonde kodomo o sukui-dashita.

The brave fireman rescued the child by jumping into the house *just as* it was about to be engulfed in flames.

Masashiku まさしく certainly, surely, no doubt

EXPLANATION: **Masashiku** is used exactly as the Japanese expression *masa ni* (which is also discussed in this book) when it is used to express something that is true or honestly stated. In those cases it might be translated as *truly, really* or *positively*, in addition to the possible translations given above. Compare the sentences below with those given under *masa ni* (1). (Please note that **masashiku** cannot be used to replace *masa ni* as it is illustrated in *Masa ni* in Section B. That is to say, **masashiku** cannot be used to express a time condition.)

EXAMPLES

1. これこそまさしく 私が長い間探していた本です。
Kore koso masashiku watakushi ga nagai aida sagashite ita hon desu.

That is *exactly* the book I've been searching for for a long time.

2. 彼女は まさしく 典型的 な 日本人 と言えます。

Kanojo wa masashiku tenkei-teki na Nihonjin to iemasu.

We could *certainly* call her a typical Japanese.

3. 私 が言いたかったのは まさしく その ことです。

Watakushi ga iitakatta no wa masashiku sono koto desu.

What I wanted to speak about was *exactly* that.

4. 富士山 は まさしく 日本一 美しい 山 と言えるでしょう。

Fujisan wa masashiku Nippon-ichi utsukushii yama to ieru deshō.

We can say that Mt. Fuji is *surely* Japan's most beautiful mountain.

Mashite まして even more, still more, much more,
definitely less, even fewer, still less

EXPLANATION: **Mashite** is usually used in sentences composed basically of two statements or two parts. It is placed just before the second part of the sentence to indicate that the statement or part which follows it is being emphasized. Most commonly, the speaker will be comparing two conditions and emphasizing the latter one. When used with a negative verb, the *still more* of its basic meaning changes to *still less*.

SECTION A Still More

Mashite can be used to express a condition that is *still more* or *even more* than something else. That is to say, when a generalized statement is made, it can be compared to a more specific statement which follows. By using the expression **mashite**, the second portion of the statement is emphasized. Both the original statement and the emphasized statement, in this usage, express typical or common ideas.

EXAMPLES

1. 私 は まだ 日本語 が 少し しか 話せません, まして 新
Watakushi wa mada Nihongo ga sukoshi shika hanasemasen, mashite shim-

聞 や 雑誌 が 読める はず は ありません。

bun ya zasshi ga yomeru hazu wa arimasen.

I can only speak a little Japanese now, so *certainly* I cannot read newspapers or magazines.

2. あのへんは 昼間 も 大へん 静か な 所 です。 まして 夜 は
Ano hen wa hiruma mo taihen shizuka na tokoro desu, mashite yoru wa
 寂しい くらい です。

sabishii kurai desu.

This district is always quiet during the daytime. It is *even more* deserted at night. (Literally: It feels quite lonesome at night.)

SECTION B Definitely More, Still Less

This usage of **mashite** is similar to that given above in Section A, except that usually an extreme and a common condition are being compared. When used in this manner, the topic of the first half of the sentence is set off by being followed by the particle *sae* or *demo*. This usage might be expressed by the formula *nani-nani (something) sae (or demo) . . . , mashite . . . hazu wa nai*. Sentences following this formula tend to end with negative verbs.

EXAMPLES

3. 我々 は 貧乏 で 食事 さえ 満足 に 取れない の です, まして
Ware-ware wa bimbō de shokuji sae manzoku ni torenai no desu, mashite
 自分 の 家 を 持つ など と とも 不可能 です。
jibun no ie o motsu nado totemo fukanō desu.

We are so poor we never get enough to eat, so we are *much too* poor to own our own home.

4. 動物 でも 自分 の 子 を かわいがります, まして 人間 の 親 が
Dōbutsu demo jibun no ko o kawaigarimasu, mashite ningen no oya ga
 子供 が かわいく ない はず は ありません。
kodomo ga kawaiku nai hazu wa arimasen.

Even some animals love their offspring, so it stands to reason that human parents would love their children *more*.

Masu-masu ますます still more, more and more,
(増す増す) increasingly

EXPLANATION: The expression **masu-masu** indicates something that is increasing in intensity or getting progressively stronger. When used with a positive verb, the growing intensity has a positive connotation, and when used with a negative verb, it has a negative connotation. It is similar to the Japanese expression *sara ni* (*more, further*), as it is discussed elsewhere in this book; see *Sara ni*, Section A.

EXAMPLES

1. 夜 になると 雨 は ますます 激しくなった。

Yoru ni naru to ame wa masu-masu hageshiku natta.

When it became night the rain got *even* heavier.

2. 日本 と 中国 との 交流は、今後 ますます 盛んになること
Nippon to Chūgoku to no kōryū wa, kongo masu-masu sakan ni naru koto
でしょう。
deshō.

Contacts between Japan and China will really *increase* from now on.

3. 今年 初め から地価がまた 上がり始め、郊外に自分の家を持
Kotoshi hajime kara chika ga mata agari-hajime, kōgai ni jibun no ie o mo-
つ という庶民の 夢 は ますます 難しく なってきた。
tsu to iu shomin no yume wa masu-masu muzukashiku natte kita.

Land prices have risen again since the beginning of the year, and the dream of people to have their own home in the suburbs is getting *increasingly* more difficult to realize.

Mazu まず to begin with, first of all, in the first place,
now, well, probably, I suppose

EXPLANATION: The ways in which the expression **mazu** is used can be divided into two major categories. Very frequently it is

used to indicate the start or beginning of an explanation or an action (sentences No. 1 and 2), though it can also mean something that is the first in a series (sentence No. 3). A second major usage is to express a possibility, something that is likely to happen, based on one's first reaction to a situation. For example, to see a cloudy sky and expect rain (as shown in Section B, sentence No. 4).

SECTION A To Indicate the Beginning

When used in this sense, **mazu** can be literally translated with such English language expressions as *to begin with* or *in the first place*. Quite often, however, it is used by the Japanese as a simple interjection which could be translated as *now* or *well*, though it still indicates the beginning of an explanation or action. In both sentences No. 1 and 2 below, either the more specific (*in the beginning*) or the weaker (*well*) translations would be suitable.

EXAMPLES

1. まず, 自己紹介 をしたい と思います。

Mazu, *jiko-shokai o shitai to omoimasu.*

To begin with, I'd like to introduce myself.

2. まず, 事件 当初からの 経過報告 をいたします。

Mazu, *jiken tōsho kara no keika-hōkoku o itashimasu.*

First of all, I will give a report on the incident since its very beginning.

3. 日本 の 美しい 山 として 挙げられる のは, まず 富士山 で
*Nihon no utsukushii yama to shite agerareru no wa, mazu Fujisan de-
しょう。*

shō.

When considering the most beautiful mountains in Japan, we should *begin with* Mt. Fuji.

SECTION B To Express a Probability

When used to express a possibility, a probability or supposition, **mazu** conveys a strong, almost definite, suggestion that something will probably happen. It might in such cases be translated as *surely*

or *definitely*, which have a strong meaning.

EXAMPLES

4. 今夜 は 雲 が 多い から、あした は まず 雨 が 降る でしょう。
Kon'ya wa kumo ga ōi kara, ashita wa mazu ame ga furu deshō.

Since it's so cloudy tonight, it will *probably* rain tomorrow.

5. 近い うち 東日本 に 大きい 地震 が 起こる ことは まず 間違いない だろう。
Chikai uchi Higashi-Nihon ni ōkii jishin ga okoru koto wa mazu machigai nai darō.

I suppose it's certain that there will be a big earthquake in eastern Japan in the near future.

6. 長い 歴史 から 見て、人類 の 争い が 全く なくなる ことは まず 期待 できない だろう。
Nagai rekishi kara mite, jinrui no arasoi ga mattaku nakunaru koto wa mazu kitai dekinai darō.

Considering what we know of human history, *I guess* there is no hope that human beings will ever stop fighting.

Mushiro むしろ rather, would sooner

EXPLANATION: Mushiro is an expression which implies that a comparison has been made between two conditions, objects or options, and that one of them, the latter, has been selected. In the Japanese sentence it is placed just before the condition or option which has been selected.

EXAMPLES

1. 今日 は 涼しい という より むしろ 寒い くらい です ね。
Kyō wa suzushii to iu yori mushiro samui kurai desu ne.

It's not cool, it's cold! (It's cold *rather* than cool.)

2. こういう 仕事 は 人に 頼む より むしろ 自分で やって しまう ほうが 楽 です。
Kō iu shigoto wa hito ni tanomu yori mushiro jibun de yatte shimau hō ga raku desu.

Rather than ask someone to do this kind of job, it will be easier to do it myself.

3. そんなことをするくらいなら、むしろ死んだほうがいい。
Son'na koto o suru kurai nara, mushiro shinda ho ga ii.
 I would sooner die than do that.

Namaji なまじ not fully, not thoroughly, thoughtlessly,
 incompletely

EXPLANATION: The basic meaning of this expression indicates something that is raw, not fully prepared or not matured. Often placed at the beginning of a sentence or long phrase, this expression implies a negative condition or state. When used in the sense of something that ought to be done, the speaker seems to be giving a warning that a negative result can occur if the required action is *not fully* performed. It also conveys the impression of something done *carelessly* or *not thoroughly*, possibly therefore resulting in a negative condition (as in sentence no. 2). Actually the expression often seems to imply a little bit of both types of meanings when used in conversation.

EXAMPLES

1. なまじ 外国語を知っているとかえって困る ことがある。
Namaji gaikokugo o shitte iru to kaette komaru koto ga aru.
 Even if you know only *a little bit* of a foreign language, sometimes you're bound to have trouble. (This sentence implies that it might be dangerous to know only a little bit of a foreign language.)
2. なまじ言い訳をしないとかえって誤解を招く 恐れがある。
Namaji iiwake o suru to kaette gokai o maneku osore ga aru.
 You had better not make an *incomplete* explanation because it could result in a misunderstanding. (The implication of the expression as it is used here is stronger than that in the sentence above.)

3. 病人 が なまじ 医学 の 本 など 読む と かえって 心理的 に 悪い
Byōnin ga namaji igaku no hon nado yomu to kaette shinri-teki ni warui
 影響 がある。
eikyō ga aru.

A sick person *should be careful* about reading medical books, because the books are bound to have a bad psychological effect on him. (This sentence implies it might be better for sick persons to refrain from reading medical books.)

Omowazu 思わず instinctively, involuntarily,
 unintentionally

EXPLANATION: The basic meaning of this expression means something that was not thought about. It is composed of the word *omou* (to think) and the negative ending *zu*, which means it was not thought. As indicated by the possible translations given above, therefore, it means something that was done without thought or without being planned; hence it refers to something that happened *instinctively* or *involuntarily*. The expression carries no value judgments as to whether the unintentional action was good or bad, but merely reports its unplanned occurrence. Note that the expression is simply inserted into the sentence as it stands. It is not used as an adjective and does not take any particles such as *na* or *ni*.

EXAMPLES

1. 大学入試 合格 の 通知 が 来た 時, 嬉しかった ので 思わず
Daigaku-nyūshi gōkaku no tsūchi ga kita toki, ureshikatta node omowazu
 「万歳」 と 叫んで しまった。
"Banzai!" to sakende shimatta.

When the notice came informing me I had passed the university entrance exam, I was so happy I *instinctively* shouted, "Banzai!". (As this sentence indicates, the use of the word *banzai* is here the equivalent of a cheer such as "hooray".)

2. 重要な 会議 だったが, 彼女 の 発言 が あまり にも 突飛 だった
Jūyō na kaigi datta ga, kanojo no hatsugen ga amari ni mo toppi datta

ので 思わず大きな 声で笑ってしまった。

node omowazu ōki na koe de waratte shimatta.

It was an important meeting, but what she said was so far off the topic that I laughed out loud *in spite of myself*.

3. ニュースで知人の死が報道された。予期しないことだったの
Nyūsu de chijin no shi ga hōdō sareta. Yoki shinai koto datta no.

で、思わず持っていたコップを落してしまった。

de, omowazu motte ita koppu o otoshite shimatta.

The death of my acquaintance was reported on the news, and since his death was so unexpected, (when I heard the report) I *involuntarily* dropped the cup I was holding.

Roku ni . . . nai	ろくに . . . ない	almost nothing,
Roku na . . . nai	ろくな . . . ない	almost none,
Roku de mo nai	ろくでもない	nothing worthwhile, nothing satisfactory, worthless

EXPLANATION: The expression *roku* means something that is *complete, proper, correct* or *satisfactory*. When it is combined with other particles and a negative verb to become *roku ni . . . nai*, *roku na . . . nai*, or *roku de mo nai*, it indicates something that is *insufficient, not worthwhile* or *valueless*. This expression unlike the majority of expressions discussed in this book, is commonly used with these various particles which are illustrated below.

SECTION A Almost None, Almost Nothing

The expression *roku ni . . . nai* is used to modify a verb, in which case it carries the idea of *almost none*.

EXAMPLES

1. 最近 は 忙しくて、家に帰っても 疲れているので 家内 とろ
Saikin wa isogashikute, uchi ni kaette mo tsukarete iru node kanai to-ro-
くに 話 も できません。
ku ni hanashi mo dekimasen.

Recently I've been so busy that when I return home I *hardly* speak with my wife because I'm so tired.

2. 世の中にはろくに食事もできない貧しい人がたくさんい
Yo no naka ni wa roku ni shokujī mo dekinai mazushii hito ga takusan i-
 るのを忘れてはなりません。
ru no o wasurete wa narimasen.

We must bear in mind that there are many poor people in this world with *almost* nothing to eat.

3. ろくに教育も受けていない彼が成功した理由はどこにある
Roku ni kyōiku mo ukete inai kare ga seikō shita riyū wa doko ni aru
 のだろう。
no darō?

What is the reason that he who has *almost no* education has accomplished so much?

SECTION B Nothing Worthwhile

The expression *roku na...nai* is used to modify a noun. It means that the noun (thing or matter) to which it refers has no value, or that its value is very low. Possible translations are shown below.

EXAMPLES

4. 焼きもののバーゲン・セールに行ってみましたか、ろくなものは
Yaki-mono no bāgen-seru ni itte mimashita ga, roku na mono
 ありませんでした。
wa arimasendeshita.

I went to the pottery sale, but there was *nothing worthwhile* for sale.

5. 勉強もしないで漫画ばかり読んでいると、ろくな人間には
Benkyō mo shinaide manga bakari yonde iru to, roku na ningen ni wa
 なりませんよ。
narimasen yo.

If you don't study but only read comic books, you *won't turn into* a decent person.

6. ろくな仕事もしないで、給料を上げてくれというのは 間
Roku na shigoto mo shinaide, kyūryō o agete kure to iu no wa ma-

違うでしょう。
chigatte iru deshō.

If you *don't do any worthwhile* work, you're mistaken to think your pay will be raised.

SECTION C Worthless

Roku de mo nai is also a version of the basic expression which is used to convey the idea that something has little or no value.

EXAMPLES

7. この子はろくでもない本ばかり読んでいて困ります。
Kono ko wa roku de mo nai hon bakari yonde ite komarimasu.
 I'm afraid this child only reads *bad* books.
8. 彼はろくでもないことばかり言って人を笑わせようとする。
Kare wa roku de mo nai koto bakari itte hito o warawaseyō to suru.
 He always says *something silly* to make people laugh.
9. 主人はろくでもない骨董品を買ってきては、ひとりで喜んでいます。
Shujin wa roku de mo nai kottōhin o katte kite wa, hitori de yorokonde imasu.
 My husband always buys a *worthless* antique which only he is happy about.

Sara ni さらに anew, again, further, more, still,
 (更に) (not) at all

EXPLANATION: The expression **sara ni** gives a basic feeling of a situation that is progressing, or a condition that is becoming progressively stronger. Section A and B illustrate its usage in situations that are progressing, while Sections C and D show how it is used to refer to conditions that are becoming progressively stronger. When used in a sentence, a sense of something continuing and / or intensifying is always conveyed.

SECTION A Recurring Condition

The expression **sara ni** can be used to refer to a condition that

has existed, but is likely to change or continue.

EXAMPLES

1. この研究はさらに続けていくつもりです。

Kono kenkyū wa sara ni tsuzukete iku tsumori desu.

I intend to continue this research *further*.

2. 豪雨による被害は以上です。さらに情報が入り次第お知らせします。

Gōu ni yoru higai wa ijō desu. Sara ni jōhō ga hairi shidai o-shirase shimasu.

The damage caused by the heavy rain is as just reported. You will be informed immediately of any *further* change in the situation.

SECTION B Increasing in Intensity

Sara ni can also be used to indicate a condition that is increasing in intensity, something that began and is getting progressively stronger. The growing intensity can have a positive or a negative connotation.

EXAMPLES

3. 国鉄は今年も運賃の値上げをしなければ、赤字はさらに増えると言っている。

Kokutetsu wa kotoshi mo unchin no neage o shinakereba, aka-ji wa sara ni fueru to itte iru.

The Japanese National Railways Corporation said that if they do not raise their passenger and freight charges again this year, they will go *further* in the red.

4. 国際間の緊張はこのままにしておけば、さらに深刻になるばかりだ。

Kokusai-kan no kincho wa kono mama ni shite okeba, sara ni shinkoku ni naru bakari da.

If international tensions continue as they are, the international situation will only *get worse*.

SECTION C Still More

Besides referring to a continuing process, as illustrated in Sections

A and B above, **sara ni** can also refer to a state of being or a condition, indicating that a particular state or condition is comparatively stronger or more intense than another condition with which it is being compared.

EXAMPLES

5. 日本人の大学進学率も高いが、アメリカ人のそれは
Nihonjin no daigaku-shingaku-ritsu mo takai ga, Amerikajin no sore wa
 さらに高い。
sara ni takai.

The percentage of Japanese who enter university is high, but it is *even higher* for Americans.

6. 彼女も美人ですが、彼女のお姉さんはさらにきれいですよ。
Kanojo mo bijin desu ga, kanojo no o-neesan wa sara ni kirei desu yo.

She is pretty, but her sister is *even prettier*.

SECTION D Complete Negative

When used with a negative verb, **sara ni** expresses a strong denial or a complete negation. This is a logical continuation of its uses as illustrated above, except that when used with a negative verb it gives a final, and not a continuing, denial.

EXAMPLES

7. あなたが正しいのだから、あやまる必要はさらにありません。
Anata ga tadashii no da kara, ayamaru hitsuyō wa sara ni arimasen.

Since you are correct, your apology is *totally unnecessary*.

8. あんなことをしたのに、反省する気はさらにはないのだから
An'na koto o shita noni, hansei suru ki wa sara ni nai no da kara
 全くあきれる。
mattaku akireru.

I am astounded that although he did that, he has no intention *at all* of reflecting on it.

Sasuga (ni) さすが (に) naturally, really, indeed,
as expected, truly, even

EXPLANATION: The expression **sasuga ni** is used to underscore or to emphasize the truth of a particular situation or thought. Most native American speakers would probably use the word *really* to add the emphasis, while British speakers or Americans being slightly more formal, would say *indeed*. This expression is used both in cases where there is general agreement about the truth of the statement (see Sections A and B), as well as to accentuate the special quality of a situation (see Section C). Its use as a noun modifier is shown in Section D.

SECTION A To Emphasize a Logical Statement

When a particular situation is explained in the first part of a sentence and the effect of that situation, as expressed in the second part of the sentence, is emphasized, the expression **sasuga ni** is used as illustrated below. The emphasized portion often expresses an *expected* result.

EXAMPLES

1. 十年 も 勉強 しているというが、さすがに 彼 の 日本語 は 正
Jū-nen mo benkyō shite iru to iu ga, sasuga ni kare no Nihongo wa sei-
確 だ。
kaku da.

Having studied for ten years, *naturally* his Japanese is good.

2. 家庭教育 が 厳しいので、山田さん の 子供たち はさすがに
Katei-kyoiku ga kibishii node, Yamada-san no kodomo-tachi wa sasuga ni
礼儀 正しい。
reigi tadashii.

Because of strict training at home, Mr. Yamada's children have *really* good manners.

3. 専門家 なので、彼はさすがに 現在の 経済情勢 について 深い
Semmonka na node, kare wa sasuga ni genzai no keizai-josei ni tsuite fukai

見方 をしている。

mikata o shite iru.

Being a specialist, he *truly* has an extremely knowledgeable way of looking at the current economic situation.

SECTION B To Emphasize a General Consensus

Sasuga ni can be used to emphasize the truth about a statement or situation about which everyone generally agrees. Since there is little disagreement about the truth of the statement, the expression can also be used by itself to constitute a reply acknowledging agreement. For example, if A says, "That person's pronunciation is very accurate and clear," and B answers by saying, "He's an announcer on NHK, you know," A person can respond by simply saying, "**sasuga!**" (*Indeed!*) Native American speakers might translate the reply as "*Is that so!*", but in either case the reply indicates an agreement which emphasizes the truth of A's original statement.

EXAMPLES

4. さすがに日本 の 富士山は 美しい。

Sasuga ni Nihon no Fujisan wa utsukushii.

Japan's Mt. Fuji is *really* beautiful. (This sentence implies that the truth of the statement is generally accepted.)

5. さすがに あの レストランの ビフテキは おいしい。

Sasuga ni ano resutoran no bifuteki wa oishii.

That restaurant's beefsteak is *really* good. (This statement implies that the restaurant's beefsteak is famous; it is known to be good.)

6. さすがに NHK の アナウンサーは 発音 が いい。

Sasuga ni NHK no anaunsa wa hatsuon ga ii.

The announcers at NHK have *really* good pronunciation.

SECTION C To Give Special Emphasis

As illustrated above, **sasuga ni** is often used in situations where the emphasized condition represents an expected outcome (Section A) or where there is general agreement about its truth (Section B).

It can also be used, however, to underline the uniqueness or special quality of a situation. Although used and translated in a similar manner, its meaning becomes slightly stronger in this usage.

EXAMPLES

7. いつも元気な彼も、さすがに今度の病気には参ったらしい。
Itsumo genki na kare mo, sasuga ni kondo no byōki ni wa maitta rashii.

He is usually so healthy, but because this time his sickness is so bad, he *really* can't overcome it.

8. いつもはっきり物言う医者だが、さすがにその患者に直
Itsumo hakkiri mono o iu isha da ga, sasuga ni sono kanja ni choku-
 接「癌です」とは言えなかった。
setsu "Gan desu" to wa ienakatta.

The doctor usually speaks his mind freely, but *indeed*, this time he couldn't tell the patient, "It's cancer." (Note that it is the practice in Japan to not directly tell a cancer victim that he has cancer.)

9. いつもよくできる彼も、さすがにこの試験問題だけは解けな
Itsumo yoku dekiru kare mo, sasuga ni kono shiken-mondai dake wa tokena-
 かった。
katta.

He can usually do well on tests, but because this time it is a *really* tough problem, he hasn't been able to solve it.

SECTION D Used to Modify a Noun

When *sasuga* is used as a modifier of a noun, a situation which would normally be explicitly expressed, as in Section C above, is instead only implied. A comparison of the example sentences in Section C and Section D will illustrate how this occurs. Used as a noun modifier, the formula is: *sasuga* + *no* + noun.

EXAMPLES

10. さすがの彼も、今度の病気には参ったらしい。
Sasuga no kare mo, kondo no byōki ni wa maitta rashii.

Even he can't overcome his sickness this time.

11. さすがの医者も、その患者に 直接 「癌です」とは言えなかった。
 Sasuga no isha mo, sono kanja ni chokusetsu "Gan desu" to wa ienaka-
 tta.

Even the doctor couldn't frankly say to the patient, "It's cancer."

12. さすがの彼も、この問題だけは解けなかった。
 Sasuga no kare mo, kono mondai dake wa tokenakatta.
Even he hasn't been able to solve this problem.

Sei-zei せいぜい no more than, at most, at best,
 nothing more, as far as possible,
 as much as

EXPLANATION: The expression *sei-zei* always refers to some volume or amount. Within that limitation it has two negative and one positive usage. In regard to numbers or time or action, it indicates the definite limit which exists in each case; i.e. few numbers, little time or limited action. (Sections A and B illustrate these usages.) However, in its polite usage (see Section C) it refers to reaching the greatest limit possible, or striving to reach the limit. Thus the expression approaches the idea of a limit from two opposite psychological perspectives. On the one hand it stresses the limiting aspect of the set amount, and on the other hand it emphasizes trying to expand to reach the limit.

SECTION A No More Than (Numbers or Time)

In referring to numbers or time, *sei-zei* indicates that the amount of the numbers or time did not exceed the number which follows the expression in the sentence. It means the actual number or time was probably less than the stated figure.

EXAMPLES

1. この会合に集まったのはせいぜい二十人だった。
 Kono kaigō ni atsumatta no wa sei-zei niju-nin datta.

There were *no more* than twenty people at the meeting.

2. 忙しい ので 本 が 読める のは せいぜい 一日 に 一時間 ぐらい で
Isogashii node hon ga yomeru no wa sei-zei ichinichi ni ichi-jikan gurai de-
 す。

su.

Since I've been so busy I've been able to read the book *at most* one hour a day.

3. 日本人 は 夏 の 休暇 でも せいぜい 一週間 という のが 普通 で
Nihonjin wa natsu no kyūka demo sei-zei issshūkan to iu no ga futsu de
 ある。

aru.

For the Japanese it is usual for summer vacation to be *not more than* one week long.

SECTION B At Best (Action)

When used to refer to an action, *sei-zei* indicates that the action is not significant, or that the action is *about all* that is performed, with little else performed beyond it. Thus it points out what is the most prominent point of a basically insignificant action.

EXAMPLES

4. 彼 の 日本語 は せいぜい 日常会話 に 困らない だけです。
Kare no Nihongo wa sei-zei nichijō-kaiwa ni komaranai dake desu.
 His Japanese is *at best* adequate for basic communication.
5. スポーツ は せいぜい 息子 と キャッチ・ボール を する くらい です。
Supōtsu wa sei-zei musuko to kyatchi-bōru o suru kurai desu.
 As for sports, *about all* I do is play catch with my son.
6. 会社 での 私 の 仕事 は せいぜい 書類 の 整理 を する 程度
Kaisha de no watakushi no shigoto wa sei-zei shorui no seiri o suru teido
 です。
desu.

At the office my work consists of *nothing more* than filing papers.

SECTION C As Far As Possible

Unlike the other two usages of *sei-zei* shown above, in this section the expression is very positive in tone. It means to do something *to the best of one's ability*, or *as far as possible*. In this usage it often appears in conversation and letters.

EXAMPLES

7. 毎日 お忙しいと思いますが、せいぜい健康に気を付けてください。
Mainichi o-isogashii to omoimasu ga, sei-zei kenko ni ki o tsukete kudasai.
sai.

I know you are busy everyday, but please take *as good care of* your health *as possible*.

8. お国へ帰られても、せいぜい日本語を使ってください。
O-kuni e kaerarete mo, sei-zei Nihongo o tsukatte kudasai.

Even after you return home (to your country), please use Japanese *as much as you can*.

9. またいつお会いできるか分かりませんが、せいぜい手紙を書くつもりです。
Mata itsu o-ai dekiru ka wakarimasen ga, sei-zei tegami o kaku tsu-mori desu.

I don't know when we will meet again, but I intend to write *as much as I can*.

10. 連休にはどこへも行かないで、せいぜい休養するつもりです。
Renkyū ni wa doko e mo ikanaide, sei-zei kyūyō suru tsumori desu.

I won't go anywhere during the holidays, but I plan to rest *as much as I can*.

Sekkaku せっかく especially, purposely, kindly, ought to,
 (折角) should properly do

EXPLANATION: The basic meaning of *sekkaku* is to convey the idea of some act being *especially* or *purposely* done. It is often used in the sense that although a special effort was made, the

desired result was not achieved. In such circumstances it expresses the speaker's disappointment. When used in this manner the formula is **sekkaku**...*no ni* (although)...bad or negative result. Finally, the expression is also used to mean something that *ought to be* done if a desired goal is to be achieved.

SECTION A To Express Regret

This usage refers to a goal which was not realized in spite of special efforts taken or in spite of the wishes of the speaker. The grammatical particle *no ni*, translated as although, often appears in this usage and the expression **sekkaku** can be placed at the beginning of the entire sentence.

EXAMPLES

1. せっかく手紙を書いたのに、出すのを忘れてしまった。
Sekkaku *tegami o kaita noni, dasu no o wasurete shimatta.*
Although I *especially* wrote the letter for a specific purpose, I forgot to mail it.
2. せっかくいい職場を探してあげたのに、彼は断ってしまった。
Sekkaku *ii shokuba o sagashite ageta noni, kare wa kotowatte shimatta.*
I *went to the trouble of* finding him a good job, but he refused to take it.

SECTION B To Be Purposely Done

Sekkaku is sometimes used to mean something that should be *especially* or *purposely* done, otherwise a chance to achieve a desired goal will be lost.

EXAMPLES

3. せっかくここまで来たのだから、友人に会って行こう。
Sekkaku *koko made kita no da kara, yūjin ni atte ikō.*
Since I've *especially* come this far, I'm going to meet my friend.
4. せっかくつかんだ好機を逃さないように、大いにがんばろう。
Sekkaku *tsukanda koki o nogasanai yō ni, ōi ni gambarō.*
In order not to lose this *long-awaited* opportunity, I *must* start

trying harder.

SECTION C To Express Gratitude

Used in this manner, the expression refers to an opportunity that should be taken in order to achieve a desired goal. Grammatically it often takes the form of **sekkaku no**+noun. Using it as a noun modifier tends to simplify the sentence, as can be seen if this section is compared with the examples in Section B above, where the content of the sentences is spelled out in more detail.

EXAMPLES

5. セッカクのご好意ですから、いただきます。

Sekkaku no go-kōi desu kara, itadakimasu.

This is *especially* kind of you. I gladly accept.

6. セッカクの休みだから、家族そろってピクニックに出かけま
Sekkaku no yasumi da kara, kazoku sorotte pikunikku ni dekakema-
しょう。

shō.

Since we're on vacation, we *ought to* go on a picnic. (This sentence implies that we ought to take the opportunity provided by being on vacation to have a picnic.)

Semete せめて at least, at best, at most

EXPLANATION: Basically this expression means that although the ideal result cannot be achieved, *at least* some attempt to realize it is possible. It indicates that the actor's ultimate hope or desire must be limited. Sentences using this expression often contain two basic clauses, the first setting forth the somewhat negative or limiting condition, and the second, often beginning with **semete**, which states the degree of positive action possible. This basic construction is illustrated in the examples below.

EXAMPLES

1. 定年になるまえに、せめて自分の家を持ちたい。

Teinen ni naru mae ni, semete jibun no ie o mochitai.

Before it becomes time to retire, I want to *at least* own my own home.

2. 毎日 忙しい 日 が 続く が、せめて お正月 だけでも のんびり
Mainichi isogashii hi ga tsuzuku ga, semete o-shōgatsu dake demo nombiri
 過ごしたい。
sugoshitai.

I am busy everyday, but *at least* I want to relax on New Year's Day.

3. 外国語 は 何 も できないが、せめて英語だけでも習得したい。
Gaikokugo wa nani mo dekinai ga, semete Eigo dake demo shūtoku shitai.
 I can't speak any foreign language, but I want to learn English
at least.

Shimi-jimi (to) しみじみ(と) dearly, sincerely, fondly,
deeply, yearn for

EXPLANATION: The basic meaning of this expression comes from the verb *shimiru*, which means to *soak* or *penetrate*. Thus **shimi-jimi** is an expression which indicates some emotion or some action that comes from deep within the heart. It conveys a positive heart-felt feeling such as *deep* gratitude. It also expresses a feeling akin to sentimentalism similar in meaning to the Japanese word *natsukashii* (to long for, to yearn for, to miss very much).

EXAMPLES

1. 静か な 夜 はふるさとのことがしみじみ思い出される。
Shizuka na yoru wa furusato no koto ga shimi-jimi omoi-dasereru.
On a quiet night I fondly recall my old hometown.
2. 逆境 にいる時は、人の親切 がとくにしみじみと感ぜら
Gyakkyō ni iru toki wa, hito no shinsetsu ga toku ni shimi-jimi to kanjira-
れる。
reru.

In times of adversity one especially feels *deep* gratitude for the kindness of others.

3. 彼はグラスを片手に、若い日の思い出をしみじみと語った。

Kare wa gurasu o katate ni, wakai hi no omoide o shimi-jimi to katatta.

He held the glass and *longingly* recalled his youth.

Shimmiri (to) しんみり (と) sentimentally, quietly,
intimately, touchingly

EXPLANATION: **Shimmiri** is used to express deep and profound human emotions. The emotions to which it refers are *longing*, *yearning for*, being *sad* or *sentimental*. When this word is spoken in a sentence, some of the emotions it conveys can be seen from the tone of voices of the speaker; it is often spoken quietly. It carries with it a feeling of *regret* or *sympathy*, emotions which tend to be passive, quiet and restrained. It is a difficult expression to translate because of the wide range of emotions it refers to and because of the subtly of those emotions.

SECTION A To be Sentimental

As illustrated below, **shimmiri** expresses a feeling of *sympathy*, *sentimentality*, or of simply being quiet and thoughtful. Note that in the sentences below, when the expression **shimmiri** is written as **shimmiri (to) shita** or **shimmiri shita**, it acts as a noun modifier. This is how the expression often appears in normal speech.

EXAMPLES

1. あの頃を思い出し、しんみり(と)した 気持で この手紙を書
Ano koro o omoidashi, shimmiri (to) shita kimochi de kono tegami o ka-
いています。
ite imasu.

I remember those days and with a *sentimental* feeling am writing this letter.

2. 父親は娘の花嫁姿をしんみり(と)した 顔つき
Chichioya wa musume no hanayome-sugata o shimmiri (to) shita kaotsuki
で眺めていた。
de nagamete ita.

With a *thoughtful* face the father was staring at his daughter in her bridal gown.

3. 「いよいよお別れ ですね」と彼女 はしんみり(と)した口調 で言
 “Iyo-iyô o-wakare desu ne” to kanojo wa shimmiri (to) shita kuchô de i-
 った。
 ita.

“Well, it’s time to part,” she *sadly* said.

SECTION B To Yearn For

When used in this sense, *shimmiri* is similar in meaning to the Japanese expression *shimi-jimi* (longingly, fondly) which is discussed elsewhere in this book. Note also that the word *to* can be used before the verb or it can be omitted.

EXAMPLES

4. 彼 はなき 母親 の思い出をしんみり(と)話した。
Kare wa naki hahaoya no omoide o shimmiri (to) hanashita.
 He spoke *sadly* when recalling his deceased mother.
5. 彼女は寒い 北国 の 宿で, 恋人 への慕情をしんみり(と)
Kanojo wa samui kitaguni no yado de, koibito e no bojô o shimmiri (to)
 歌っていた。
utatte ita.

In a small inn in the cold north country, she *longingly* sang a song about her devotion to her lover.

Sôtô そうとう pretty, fairly, tolerably, considerably,
 (相当) equivalent, appropriate, proper

EXPLANATION: In its most literal meaning, the expression *sôtô* could be translated to mean that something is equivalent to or corresponds to something else. Thus one can derive the various possible translations given above from its basic meaning. When used as an adverb, as in sentence No. 1 below, the expression is simply inserted as it stands into a sentence at an appropriate point, and sometimes it becomes *sôtô ni*, as in sentences No. 2 and 3.

When used as an adjective, as in sentence No. 4, it becomes *sōtō* no or *sōtō na* and takes the common adjectival ending. It can become a verb also by using it as *sōtō suru*, as in sentence No. 5.

SECTION A Most Common Usage

The expression is most commonly used as it stands, without taking any particle, and it is used to mean *considerably* or *pretty* (referring to intensity).

EXAMPLES

1. さっきの地震はそうとうひどかったですね。
Sakki no jishin wa sōtō hidokatta desu ne.
 That earthquake was *pretty* strong, wasn't it?
2. 敬語は母からそうとう厳しく教えられました。
Keigo wa haha kara sōtō kibishiku oshieraremashita.
 Mother *very* strictly taught me how to use polite words and expressions.

SECTION B Used as an Adjective

In this usage the expression describes a degree of some quality and it can have either a positive or negative implication.

EXAMPLES

3. この正月休みにはそうとうな道路混雑が予想されます。
Kono shōgatsu-yasumi ni wa sōtō na dōro-konzatsu ga yosō saremasu.
 A *considerable* traffic jam is expected during the coming New Year holidays.
4. 今回の研究発表で彼女はそうとうの評価を得た。
Konkai no kenkyū-happyō de kanojo wa sōtō no hyōka o eta.
 The paper she recently published has brought her into *fairly* high esteem in academic circles.
5. 十年間も勉強しているので、彼の日本語はそうとうなものだ。
Jūnen-kan mo benkyō shite iru node, kare no Nihongo wa sōtō na mono da.

Having studied Japanese for the past ten years, his Japanese is *really* good. (It is the equivalent of ten years of study.)

6. 他人の考えをいかにも自分自身の意見のようにして言う
Tanin no kangae o ikani mo jibun-jishin no iken no yō ni shite iu to
 は、彼もそうとうなものだ。
wa, kare mo sōtō na mono da.

He is the *kind* of person who uses other people's ideas as if they were his own. (He is that type of person.)

SECTION C Used to Indicate Equivalency

Used in this sense, the expression means something that is *equal* to or *appropriate* to.

EXAMPLES

7. この競技に優勝した方には十万円に相当する賞品が贈
Kono kyōgi ni yūsho shita kata ni wa jūman-en ni sōtō suru shōhin ga oku-
 られます。
raremasu.

The person who wins this contest will be given a prize *worth* one hundred thousand yen. (It will be equivalent in value to one hundred thousand yen.)

8. どんな理由があっても、人を殺した罪は死に相当する。
Don'na riyū ga atte mo, hito o koroshita tsumi wa shi ni sōtō suru.

Regardless of the reasons involved, death is the only *appropriate* sentence for someone who commits the crime of murder.

Tada ただ nothing but, only, once, gratis, free,
 for nothing, ordinary, common, typical

EXPLANATION: The expression *tada* can be used in a wide variety of ways. More so than most of the other expressions discussed in this book, rather than conveying a precise or limited meaning or nuance, it often functions as an expression which gives an emphasis to the word or information which follows it. Although this usage is most clearly illustrated in Section F, it can be seen to some

degree in the other sections as well, though readers should be aware of the specific meanings which *tada* can convey, as the various examples below illustrate.

SECTION A Nothing But, Only

When used as shown below, *tada* refers to a singular action or emotion, which is often translated as *nothing but* or *only*.

EXAMPLES

1. 病院に運ばれてから今日まで、彼はただ眠り続けている。
Byōin ni hakobarete kara kyō made, kare wa tada nemuri-tsuzukete iru.
 From the time he was taken to the hospital until today, he's done *nothing but* sleep.
2. 私が理由をきいても、妹はただ泣くだけだった。
Watakushi ga riyū o kiite mo, imōto wa tada naku dake datta.
 I asked her why, but my sister *only* kept on crying.
3. ご親切にはただただ感謝しております。
Go-shinsetsu ni wa tada tada kansha shite orimasu.
 I am *simply* very grateful for your kindness.

SECTION B Once, Only One

Tada can be used with numbers and counters. In its most common usage, it is used in connection with the number one, to signify something that is singular, that happened *only once*, or to refer to a *single* individual. The usual counters in Japanese used with *tada* are *ichido* (*once*), *ikkai* (*one time*), *hitotsu* (*one*) and *hitori* (*one person*), etc

EXAMPLES

4. 田中氏にはただ一度しか会ったことがありません。
Tanaka-shi ni wa tada ichido shika atta koto ga arimasen.
 I have met Mr. Tanaka *only once*.
5. ただ一度の誤りだけでその人を評価するのはよくありません。
Tada ichido no ayamari dake de sono hito o hyōka suru no wa yoku arimasen.

It is not fair to judge him by the *one* mistake he made.

6. 彼女の提案に賛成したのはただ一人だけだった。

Kanojo no teian ni sansei shita no wa tada hitori dake datta.

There was *only one* person who agreed with her proposal.

SECTION C Free, Gratis

When used to refer to money or cost, the expression **tada** indicates something is *free* or *gratis* or *without charge*.

EXAMPLES

7. 将来はスチュワーデスになりたいと思います。ただで世界旅行
Shōrai wa suchuwādesu ni naritai to omoimasu. Tada de sekai-ryōkō
ができますから。

ga dekimasu kara.

In the future I want to become an airline stewardess, because then I can see the world *for free*.

8. そんなに高い本を買う必要はありません。図書館に行けばた
Son'na ni takai hon o kau hitsuyō wa arimasen. Toshokan ni ikeba ta-
だで読めるでしょう。

da de yomeru deshō.

There is no need to buy such an expensive book. You may read it *for free* at the library.

9. このシャツが千円ですか、まるでただのようですね。

Kono shatsu ga sen-en desu ka, marude tada no yō desu ne.

This shirt is one thousand yen! It's almost a *giveaway*, isn't it?

SECTION D A Conclusion Leading to Consequence

When **tada** becomes part of the set expression **tada de sumu**, it means something that is finished resulting in an obligation or something which has come to an end and is now in a critical stage.

EXAMPLES

10. 人の車に傷をつけて、ただですむと思っているのです
Hito no kuruma ni kizu o tsukete, tada de sumu to omotte iru no desu

か。
ka.

You made a dent in someone's car. Do you think it's nothing serious?

11. このことが 社長に知れたら、ただではすまされないだろう。
Kono koto ga shachō ni shiretara, tada de wa sumasarenai darō.

Once the boss learns about this, something terrible will happen.

12. 私 の不注意から皆さんに ご迷惑 をかけて、ただです
Watakushi no fuchū kara minasan ni go-meiwaku o kakete, tada de sumu to wa omotte orimasen.

Because of my oversight I've caused all of you this trouble, and I'm fully aware of the obligation which I have to repay.

SECTION E Ordinary, Common

When the combination of **tada no** plus a noun is used, the idea is conveyed that something is *ordinary*, *typical* or *common*, as sentence No. 16 below shows. Used with a negative verb, as shown in sentences Nos. 13, 14 and 15, it indicates that something is *special*, *not common* or *not typical*.

EXAMPLES

13. これはただの風邪ではないようです。
Kore wa tada no kaze de wa nai yō desu.

It seems this is no *ordinary* cold.

14. 七か国語 も 話せる とは、全く ただの人ではない。
Nanaka-kokugo mo hanaseru to wa, mattaku tada no hito de wa nai.

I've heard he can speak seven languages. He is really a *special* person.

15. このやり方 はただの 強盗殺人 ではありません。何か 個人的
Kono yarikata wa tada no gōtō-satsujin de wa arimasen. Nanika kojīn-teki na riyū ga arisō desu.

Because of the way it was committed, this is no *ordinary* homicide. It appears there was some personal motive involved.

16. 心配 ありません。ただの風邪ですから 静かに寝ていれはすぐ
Shimpai arimasen. Tada no kaze desu kara shizuka ni nete ireba sugu

直ります。
naorimasu.

There is no cause for worry. Since it's just an *ordinary* cold, some quiet bedrest will soon cure it.

SECTION F But, Nevertheless, Provided

Tada is also used as a conjunction which indicates that the information following it in the sentence is to be emphasized as an exceptional remark to the immediately preceding statement. It is possible to translate it in a variety of ways, as the examples below illustrate.

EXAMPLES

17. あの店のステーキはとてもうまい。ただすこし値段が高いが。
Ano mise no suteki wa totemo umai. Tada sukoshi nedan ga takai ga.
That store's steak is really good, *but* the price is simply too high.

18. 彼は有能なビジネスマンです。ただ気の短いのが欠点です。
Kare wa yūnō na bijinesuman desu. Tada ki no mijikai no ga ketten desu.
He is a competent businessman, *nevertheless* his weakness is a short temper.

19. 君の案は大変面白い。ただ現実性に乏しいのではないか。
Kimi no an wa taihen omoshiroi. Tada genjitsu-sei ni toboshii no de wa nai ka.

Your proposal is very interesting, *but* there is really not much chance of putting it through, is there.

20. 彼はとても無口だ。ただ自分に興味のあることにに関して
Kare wa totemo mukuchi da. Tada jibun ni kyōmi no aru koto ni kanshite
はよくしゃべる。
wa yoku shaberu.

He is very reticent, *nevertheless* he is very talkative when the subject arouses his interest.

21. 私は欠点の多い人間です。ただけっしてうそを言わない
Watakushi wa ketten no ōi ningen desu. Tada kesshite uso o iwana-

い こと だけは 信じて ください。

i koto dake wa shinjite kudasai.

I am a person with a lot of faults, but *one thing for sure*, please believe me I never tell lies.

Taka ga たかが only, merely, at most

EXPLANATION: The root of the expression **taka** refers to a volume or an amount. In colloquial usage, when referring to numbers or to action, it is used to stress the smallness of the numbers or the insignificance of the action. The final verb of the sentence need not be negative because **taka ga** always indicates that the specified numbers or action which follows it in the sentence is considered small or unimportant.

SECTION A Only (Referring to Numbers)

When referring to numbers and amounts, the expression **taka ga** indicates that the numbers are few or the amount is low. It is similar to the Japanese expression *tatta* (*only*) (as illustrated in Section A of *Tatta*) except that **taka ga** is the stronger of the two expressions in emphasizing the smallness of the number, or the insignificance of the amount.

EXAMPLES

1. たか が 五千円 の 寄付 です。出せないはずはないでしょう。

Taka ga gosen-en no kifu desu. Dasenai hazu wa nai deshō.

It's *only* a five thousand yen donation. I don't see why you can't afford that much.

2. たか が 十キロ 歩いた だけで こんなに 疲れて しまった。年 の せ

Taka ga jukkiro aruita dake de kon'na ni tsukarete shimatta. Toshi no sei kana.

i ka na.

I've walked a *mere* ten kilometers and I'm this tired. Am I getting old?

3. たかが一週間の旅行に、そんなにたくさん服を持って行かな
 Taka ga issshukan no ryokō ni, son'na ni takusan fuku o motte ikana-
 くていいでしょう。
 kute mo ii deshō.

For *only* a week's vacation you don't have to take that many clothes with you, do you?

SECTION B Merely (Referring to Actions)

When some action or affair is considered very unimportant or very insignificant, the expression **taka ga** is used as shown below.

EXAMPLES

4. たかが盲腸の手術です。心配することはありません。
 Taka ga mōcho no shujutsu desu. Shimpai suru koto wa arimasen.

It's *only* an appendectomy, so there is no need to worry.

5. たかが子どものけんかに、親が出ていくというのはまったく
 Taka ga kodomo no kenka ni, oya ga dete iku to iu no wa mattaku
 おかしい。
 okashii.

It's *just* an argument between children, and there is absolutely no reason for the parents to get involved.

6. たかが風邪だなどと軽くみてはいけません。早くうちに帰っ
 Taka ga kaze da nado to karuku mite wa ikemasen. Hayaku uchi ni kaet-
 てお休みなさい。
 te o-yasumi nasai.

It's wrong to say it's *only* a cold and treat it lightly. Hurry home and get some rest.

Tashika たしか certainly, definitely, reliable, proper,
 (確か) if I am correct, I think

EXPLANATION: The basic meaning of the expression **tashika**, as shown in Sections A and B, refer to something that is *certain, positive, trustworthy* and *reliable*. Popular conversational usages are shown in Sections C and D, where it means *truly, for sure* (Section

C), or *I think, I suppose* (Section D). Note that the expression, though often used as it stands by being merely inserted into a sentence, takes the particle *na* when it modifies a noun (and acts as an adjective), and it takes the particle *ni* when it modifies a verb (and acts as an adverb).

SECTION A Certain, Positive

This section illustrates the basic meaning of the expression **tashika**, which is similar to the Japanese expression *hontō da* (*for sure, for certain*). Used in this way, the expression refers to a stated proposition and confirms it.

EXAMPLES

1. 彼 が 今度 の 選挙 に 立候補 する ことは、ほとんど たしかだ。
Kare ga kondo no senkyo ni rikkōho suru koto wa, hotondo tashika da.
 It's almost *certain* that he will run in this election.
2. 今日 は たしか な お返事 を 聞かせて ください。
Kyō wa tashika na o-henji o kikasete kudasai.
 Please give me a *definite* answer today.
3. 松本氏 の 理事長 就任 は たしか になった。
Matsumoto-shi no rijichō shūnin wa tashika ni natta.
 Mr. Matsumoto's appointment as director of the board has become *certain*.
4. あの うわさ は いよいよ たしか だと 分った。
Ano uwasa wa iyo-iyō tashika da to wakatta.
 That rumor has finally been proved to be *true*.

SECTION B Reliable, Genuine

This section illustrates how **tashika** evaluates and confirms the positive character of the subject of the sentence. It is here similar in feeling to the Japanese expressions *tadashii* (*correct, proper*), and *machigai nai* (*without question*). Its usage in this manner still preserves its basic meaning as given in Section A above.

EXAMPLES

5. 彼の日本語はたしかです。
Kare no Nihongo wa tashika desu.
His Japanese is quite *correct*.
6. あの会社はたしかだから、すぐ契約しても大丈夫です。
Ano kaisha wa tashika da kara, sugu keiyaku shite mo daijōbu desu.
Since that company is *trustworthy*, it's okey to go ahead and sign a contract with them.
7. 私の母はもう九十歳になりますが、まだ目も耳も
Watakushi no haha wa mō kyūjussai ni narimasu ga, mada me mo mimi mo
たしかです。
tashika desu.
Although my mother is already ninety, her eyes and ears are still *good*.
8. このニュースはたしかな所から聞いた話です。
Kono nyūsu wa tashika na tokoro kara kiita hanashi desu.
This news was given by a *reliable* source.

SECTION C Truly, For Sure

In a very popular conversational usage, the expression *tashika*, as illustrated below, is similar to the Japanese expression *honto ni* (*really, absolutely*) and *machigai naku* (*for sure*).

EXAMPLES

9. おつりをもらってたしかにこのポケットにいれたのになくなっ
O-tsuri o moratte tashika ni kono poketto ni ireta noni nakunat-
ている。
te iru.
I got the change and *definitely* put it in this pocket, but it's disappeared.
10. 家を出る時たしかにドアにかぎを掛けたのに、帰ってみたら
Uchi o deru toki tashika ni doa ni kagi o kaketa noni, kaette mitara
開いていた。
aite ita.

Although when leaving the house I *definitely* locked the door, when I returned I found it was open.

11. 先週 たしかに 速達 を出したのに、彼はまだ受け取っていないと言う。
Senshū tashika ni sokutatsu o dashita noni, kare wa mada uketotte inai to iu.

Although I *absolutely* sent that letter by special delivery last week, he says he hasn't received it yet.

SECTION D Probably, I Suppose

A further popular conversational usage of **tashika** carries meanings similar to the Japanese expression *tabun* (*probably, most likely*). It indicates a slight uncertainty on the part of the speaker about the accuracy of the statement, but it also implies that the statement is *probably* accurate.

EXAMPLES

12. 彼 に会ったのはたしか 先週 の金曜日です。
Kare ni atta no wa tashika senshū no kin'yōbi desu.
I'm almost certain it was last Friday when I met him.
13. この時計はたしか 三万円 だった と思います。
Kono tokei wa tashika samman-en datta to omoimasu.
If I remember correctly this watch cost thirty thousand yen.
14. たしか この 辺 にポストがあったと思う のだが、どうしても見つからない。
Tashika kono hen ni posuto ga atta to omou no da ga, dōshite mo mi-tsukaranai.
I thought there was a mailbox around here, but I can't seem to find it.

Tatta たった only, just, merely

EXPLANATION: **Tatta** is used to refer to something that is of a very small quantity or of a very short duration. Thus it always

emphasizes the smallness of the number or time to which it refers. In modern American English, the three possible translations shown above are interchangeable in many instances, although in the examples below the most natural sounding translations have been given.

SECTION A Only (Referring to Numbers)

When used in reference to numbers, the expression **tatta** means *only* or *merely* and indicates that the number is not considered to be large.

EXAMPLES

1. 一生懸命 に 節約 したけれども、貯金 はたった 五十万円 し
Isshokemmei ni setsuyaku shita keredomo, chokin wa tatta gojūman-en shi-
かない。
ka nai.

I tried hard to be frugal, but I *only* have five hundred thousand yen in savings.

2. たった 三百頁 の 本を読むのに、一週間も かかってしまっ
Tatta sambyaku-peiji no hon o yomu no ni, issshūkan mo kakatte shimat-
た。
ta.

Although the book I read had *only* three hundred pages, it took me a week to read it.

3. 彼等 はたった 一度 会っただけで 結婚 の 約束 をしたそう
Karera wa tatta ichido atta dake de kekkon no yakusoku o shita so
だ。
da.

Although they've met *only* once, I've heard that they are engaged.

SECTION B Just (Referring to Time)

When referring to time, **tatta** means something that has *just now* happened; it indicates that very little or almost no time has passed since the action in question. In common speech, it is often used as part of the expression **tatta ima** (*just now*).

EXAMPLES

4. 主人 はたった今出掛けたところです。
Shūjin wa tatta ima dekaketa tokoro desu.
 My husband has *just* gone out.
5. 「おそくなってすみません。ずいぶんお待ちになりましたか。」
“Osokunatte sumimasen. Zuibun o-machi ni narimashita ka?”
 「いいえ、たった今来たばかりです。」
“Iie, tatta ima kita bakari desu.”
 “Sorry I’m late. Have you waited very long?”
 “No, I’ve *just* gotten here.”
6. たった今 話した ことをもう忘れてしまったのですか。
Tatta ima hanashita koto o mō wasurete shimatta no desu ka?
 Have you already forgotten what I’ve *just* told you?

Tokaku とかく frequently, often, repeatedly, tend to,
 be apt to

EXPLANATION: The expression **tokaku** always carries with it a feeling of something that is *frequent* or *repeated*, as opposed to anything that is singular or unique. Therefore it is used to refer to multiple reasons or repeated actions.

SECTION A Repeated or Frequent Actions

Tokaku, in this usage, is similar to the Japanese expression *shiba-shiba*, which means *often*, *frequently* or *repeatedly*. It gives a sense of frequent and continuing action.

EXAMPLES

1. 利己主義 と 個人主義 は とかく 混同 されやすい。
Riko-shugi to kojīn-shugi wa tokaku kondō sare-yasui.
 The meaning of the terms “egoism” and “individualism” are *often* easily confused.
2. 仲 がよすぎると とかく けんか する ものです。
Naka ga yosugiru to tokaku kenka suru mono desu.

Being too close to someone is *frequently* a cause of arguments.

3. 仕事 の 速い 人 は とかく 失敗 も 多い もの です。

Shigoto no hayai hito wa tokaku shippai mo ōi mono desu.

People who work quickly *often* make many mistakes.

SECTION B Multiple Reasons

To indicate that there are *several*, *many* and *various* factors involved in some situation, *tokaku* can be used as illustrated below. Its meaning here is similar to the Japanese expression *iro-iro* (*various*, *several*).

EXAMPLES

4. あの 人 は とかく うわさ が ある 人 です から、 気 を つけた ほ う が
Ano hito wa tokaku uwasa ga aru hito desu kara, ki o tsuketa ho ga
いい です よ。

ii desu yo.

There is *all kind* of gossip about that person, so you'd better be careful.

5. とかく する うち に、 帰 国 の 時 期 が 迫 っ て き た。

Tokaku suru uchi ni, kikoku no jiki ga sematte kita.

While being busy with *various* things, the time to return home approached.

6. とかく この 世 は 住 み に く い、 いっ そ 山 の 中 に 入 っ て ひ と り
Tokaku kono yo wa suminikui, isso yama no naka ni haitte hitori
で 暮 そ う か。

de kurasō ka.

Considering everything it's so hard to live in this world; should I go into the mountains and live alone? (Note that the first portion of this sentence, "*kono yo wa suminikui*" (*it's so hard to live in this world*), is considered a truism and is used as a set phrase or as a colloquial saying in Japanese. The remainder of a sentence used with this phrase can express whatever additional comment or followup idea the speaker wishes to make. Used in this way, *tokaku* carries a sense of fatalism with it, conveying the idea that in this life there are many difficult problems that simply cannot be avoided.)

Tonikaku とにかく first of all, first, before that,
especially, most of all, anyway,
anyhow, at any rate

EXPLANATION: **Tonikaku** is an expression which carries a feeling that an action or idea or situation expressed in the portion of the sentence following **tonikaku**, must take priority over whatever was said in the first part of the sentence. As shown in Section A, it means something that should be done or considered *first*, or *before anything else*. Or, as shown in Section B, it refers to something that was extreme or which had predominance over whatever else was expressed in the sentence. It can also be used by itself as a single word sentence, to mean something like, "well, *first of all* . . ."

SECTION A First of All

When used in regard to actions, **tonikaku** refers to an action which the speaker wishes to perform *before* performing any other actions. Thus it can easily be translated as *first of all* or *before that*.

EXAMPLES

1. いろいろ 言いたい こと も ある だろう が, とにかく 私 の
Iro-iro itai koto mo aru darō ga, tonikaku watakushi no
話 を 聞きなさい。
hanashi o kikinasai.

There are probably many things you want to say, but *first* please listen to what I have to say.

2. 一杯 やりたい けれど, とにかく 仕事 を 片付けて しまおう。
Ippai yaritai keredo, tonikaku shigoto o katazukete shimaō.

I just want to have a drink, but I'd better finish my work *first*.

3. 考えている だけでは なにも できない, とにかく やって みよう。
Kangaete iru dake de wa nani mo dekinai, tonikaku yatte miyō.

It won't do any good to just think about it, so let's try and see *anyway*.

SECTION B Especially

Tonikaku can also be used to refer to a situation that is considered extreme or to some situation that is of most concern. For example, it can refer to weather that was *so* cold (extremely cold). Its use is shown below.

EXAMPLES

4. 久しぶりに日本に帰って来たが、とにかく物価が高いのには
Hisashiburi ni Nihon ni kaette kita ga, tonikaku bukka ga takai no ni wa
 驚いた。
odoroita.

After a long while away I returned to Japan, and I was astonished that prices had gotten *so* high.

5. おそくなってすみません、とにかく道がこんでいてどうにも
Osoku natte sumimasen, tonikaku michi ga konde ite do ni mo
 なりませんでした。
narimasen deshita.

I'm sorry to be late, but since the traffic was *especially* heavy there was nothing I could do.

6. 知床岬まで行きましたが、とにかく寒くて景色を楽しむことなどできませんでした。
Shiretoko-misaki made ikimashita ga, tonikaku samukute keshiki o tanoshimu koto nado dekimasen deshita.

I went as far as Shiretoko-misaki, but since it was *so* cold I couldn't enjoy the scenery. (Note that Shiretoko-misaki is in the northeastern part of Japan's northern island of Hokkaido.)

Tōtei とうてい (cannot) possibly, absolutely (not),
 (到底) (not) at all

EXPLANATION: The expression **tōtei** means something which has reached the bottom, or when used conversationally, it refers to the "bottom line" of a situation. It is always used to express a negative situation, to give the feeling that something is *not at all possible* or *absolutely cannot* be done. It is sometimes used as a shortcut ex-

pression to indicate a negative situation, but without stating the reasoning, as illustrated in sentence No. 4.

EXAMPLES

1. あの正直 な 彼 が, 人をだますとは, どうてい信じられないことだ。
Ano shōjiki na kare ga, hito o damasu to wa, tôtei shinjirarenai koto da.

I cannot possibly believe that he who is so honest would cheat anyone.

2. 両親 は 東大 へ行けと言うけれども, 私 の 能力 では
Ryōshin wa Tōdai e ike to iu keredomo, watakushi no nōryoku de wa
 どうてい無理だ。
tôtei muri da.

My parents told me to enter the University of Tokyo, but I'm not at all good enough to do it. (I don't have the ability to do it.)

3. 今年 上半期 に景気が好転することは, どうてい期待できない。
Kotoshi kami-hanki ni keiki ga kōten suru koto wa, tôtei kitai dekinai.

I have absolutely no hope that business conditions will improve during the first half of the year.

4. この 雨 では, どうていタクシーはつかまらないだろう。
Kono ame de wa, tôtei takushii wa tsukamaranai darō.

With this rain, won't it be hard to catch a taxi. (Implying that everyone will be taking taxis to avoid the rain.)

Totemo とても doesn't at all, cannot possibly, never, very, quite, extremely

EXPLANATION: The expression **totemo** is always used to refer to some extreme condition. As shown in Section A, it is used to modify a negative verb and means *cannot possibly* or *not at all*. When used to modify an adjective, a popular usage shown illustrated in Section B, it means something that is *very* or *extremely* something.

SECTION A Cannot Possibly

When used to modify a verb which is negative, **totemo** indicates a feeling of *cannot possibly*. This usage is similar to the expression *tôtei* which is discussed elsewhere in this book.

EXAMPLES

1. 山下夫人 はいつも若若しくて、大学生の息子の母
Yamashita-fujin wa itsumo wakawakashikute, daigakusei no musuko no haha
にはとても見えない。
ni wa totemo mienai.

Mrs. Yamashita always seems so young, she *doesn't at all* look like a mother who has a son in college.

2. 仕事のために自分を売ることなど、私にはとてもでき
Shigoto no tame ni jibun o uru koto nado, watakushi ni wa totemo deki-
ません。
masen.

I *cannot possibly* sell myself just for the sake of a job.

3. この眠ったように静かな村に血生臭い争いが起ったと
Kono nemutta yô ni shizuka na mura ni chinamagusai arasoi ga okotta to
は、とても信じられない。
wa, totemo shinjirarenai.

It's *hard* to believe that such a bloody battle could have taken place in this sleepy, quiet village.

SECTION B Very, Quite

In its most popular usage, the expression **totemo** is used to modify an adjective, and its nuance is one of indicating an extreme condition, such as *very* much, *quite* a lot, etc. It is similar in feeling to the popular Japanese expression *taihen* (*very, quite*).

EXAMPLES

4. このお菓子はとてもおいしいですよ。
Kono okashi wa totemo oishii desu yo.
This candy is *very* good.

5. あの方はとてもいい人です。
Ano kata wa totemo ii hito desu.

That is a *very* fine person.

6. 今日はとても楽しかった。

Kyō wa totemo tanoshikatta.

I was *very* happy today.

Tōtō とうとう finally, at last, in the end

EXPLANATION: The expression **tōtō** always refers to some long process that has finally reached a conclusion. It is almost exactly the same in its nuances and possible uses as the Japanese expression *tsui ni* (at last, after all). *Tsui ni* is discussed elsewhere in this book and that section should be especially compared with the uses of **tōtō** as given in this section. Please note that the expression **tōtō** is most commonly used in conversational speech. It is somewhat similar to the Japanese expression *kekkyoku* (consequently) as it is discussed elsewhere in this book; see *kekkyoku*, Section A. However, as it is discussed below in Section C, examples 5 and 6, simply the fact of the result is noted (not the idea that there has been a process leading up to the result). In the usage discussed below it refers merely to the outcome of something and might be translated as *in the end*.

SECTION A Positive Implication

Tōtō can be used, as illustrated below, to indicate that a long expected or long desired result has finally been achieved.

EXAMPLES

1. 十年以上かかった研究がとうとう完成した。

Jū-nen ijō kakatta kenkyū ga tōtō kansei shita.

The research that has taken me more than ten years to do has *finally* been completed.

2. 長かった学生生活が終り、社会人として出発する日

Nagakatta gakusei-seikatsu ga owari, shakai-jin to shite shuppatsu suru hi

がとうとう来た。
ga tōtō kita.

My long period as a student is finished, and the time to go out into the world has *at last* come.

SECTION B Negative Implication

Tōtō can also be used with a negative implication, to convey the feeling that the final result of a situation has confirmed the speaker's fears.

EXAMPLES

3. 十年 近く飼っていた愛犬がとうとう死んでしまった。
Jū-nen chikaku katte ita aiken ga tōtō shinde shimatta.
The pet dog I kept for nearly ten years died *at last*.
4. 最後のお金もとうとう使い果たしてしまった。
Saigo no o-kane mo tōtō tsukai hatashite shimatta.
In the end I even used up my last bit of money.

SECTION C Unexpected Outcome

The expression **tōtō** also refers to a final result or an outcome which has taken place. It is used usually with a negative verb, in which case it indicates that the final result turned out differently than had been expected by the speaker. That is to say, it was an unexpected outcome.

EXAMPLES

5. 忙しくてあの展覧会にはとうとう行けませんでした。
Isogashikute ano tenrankai ni wa tōtō ikemasen deshita.
Being busy, I was *in the end* unable to go to that exhibition.
6. 一時間も待ったが彼女は、とうとう現われなかった。
Ichī-jikan mo matta ga, kanojo wa tōtō arawarenakatta.
I waited at least an hour but she *never* appeared.

Tsui つい just, only, unthinkingly, unintentionally,
carelessly

EXPLANATION: In what is perhaps its most common usage, the expression *tsui* gives a sense of closeness or proximity in regard to an action, and it refers to something that *has just* happened, as illustrated in Section A. Its implication when referring to a location, as illustrated in Section B, is similar. These two usages tend to be close in concept, while its use as illustrated in Section C is quite different, since it can also be used to indicate an action that is *carelessly*, *unintentionally* or *accidentally* done. The third usage is not so different from a purely logical point of view, because it gives a sense of something being so close to the speaker that it was overlooked.

SECTION A Just Now

To indicate an extremely short, almost immediate time period, the expression is used as illustrated below. It means something *has just* happened, or was *just* happening, or was *just about to* happen.

EXAMPLES

1. 吉田さん にはついこの 二,三日 前に会いました。
Yoshida-san ni wa tsui kono ni-san-nichi mae ni aimashita.
I met Mr. Yoshida *just* two or three days ago.
2. 彼 はついさっきまでいたのですが、もう 帰りました。
Kare wa tsui sakki made ita no desu ga, mō kaerimashita.
He was here until *just* a short while ago, but he has gone home now.
3. 三年 前のあの日が、ついきのうの ことのように 思い出さ
San-nen mae no ano hi ga, tsui kinō no koto no yō ni omoi dasa-
れる。
reru.
I can remember that day three years ago as if it were *only* yesterday.

SECTION B Nearby

When used with reference to a place or location, *tsui* implies that the object of the sentence is very near. Its actual translation when used in this manner would be *just* or *only*, as shown below. In this section *tsui* always refers to a physical location.

EXAMPLES

4. 駅 はここからつい 二,三百米 先 です。

Eki wa koko kara tsui ni-sambyaku-mētoru saki desu.

The station is *only* two or three hundred meters ahead.

5. お互 につい 近く に住んでいるのに、めったに会いません。

Otagai ni tsui chikaku ni sunde iru noni, metta ni aimasen.

Although we live *quite* nearby, we rarely meet.

6. 家内 はついそこまで 買物 に出掛けたのですから、すぐ帰っ

Kanai wa tsui soko made kaimono ni dekaketa no desu kara, sugu kaete

te kuru deshō.

Since my wife went *just* over there to buy something, she should be coming back soon.

SECTION C Carelessly, Unintentionally

When referring to something that was the result of *carelessness*, *tsui* is used as illustrated below. Its meaning in this usage is similar to the Japanese expression *omowazu* (*in spite of myself*) and *ukkari* (*absent-mindedly*), both of which are discussed elsewhere in this book.

EXAMPLES

7. たばこを止めようと思うのですが、人が吸っているとつい吸

Tabako o yameyo to omou no desu ga, hito ga sutte iru to tsui su

tte shimaimasu.

I intend to stop smoking, but when others are smoking I *un-thinkingly* smoke.

8. 話 に 夢中になって、時間がたつのをつい忘れてしまった。

Hanashi ni muchū ni natte, jikan ga tatsu no o tsui wasurete shimatta.

Since I was so absorbed in talking, I *unexpectedly* lost track of the time.

9. 「めくら」、「つんぼ」、「おし」などは 差別語 だと知ってはいます
 “Mekura,” “tsumbo,” “oshi” *nado wa sabetsu-go da to shitte wa imasu*
 が、慣用句 の 中 ではつい使ってしまいます。
ga, kan'yō-ku no naka de wa tsui tsukatte shimaimasu.

I know the words “mekura” (to be blind), “tsumbo” (to be deaf) and “oshi” (to be mute) should not be used, but I often *carelessly* use them in conversation. (Note that these three words are not proper medical terms but are slang and carry a pejorative connotation. By unwritten convention they are never used in radio broadcasting or in the mass media.)

Tsuide ni ついでに while, in passing,
 if you have the occasion to

EXPLANATION: When used between two phrases or sentences, this expression refers to a secondary or related action which can be performed in the course of carrying out the major action of the sentence. It is used in the sense of “while I am doing A, why don't I also do B”. The action referred to in the clause following **tsuide ni** can be considered to express the subordinate action of the sentence.

EXAMPLES

1. 丸善 に来たついでにちょっと近くの 高島屋 にも 寄って
Maruzen ni kita tsuide ni chotto chikaku no Takashimaya ni mo yotte
 みよう。
miyō.

Since I'm going to Maruzen, I'll stop at nearby Takashimaya too. (The subject of this sentence, since it is not clearly stated, can also be plural in this case: *Since* we're going to Maruzen, let's stop at Takashimaya too.)

2. 買物 に行くのなら、ついでにこの手紙 も 出して来てくださ
Kaimono ni iku no nara, tsuide ni kono tegami mo dashite kite kudasa-

いません か。
imasen ka?

While you're going out shopping, won't you mail this letter for me?

Tsui ni ついに in the end, finally, at last, after all
 (遂に)

EXPLANATION: *Tsui ni* gives the feeling that a long on-going process has finally come to an end and the results of that process can now be seen. It can be used in a positive or negative sense, but always with the idea that the outcome seems quite clear. Sections A, B and C below are similar in usage and meaning to the expression *toto*, Sections A, B and C, as it is discussed elsewhere in this book.

SECTION A Positive Implication

Used in this sense, the expression indicates that the achieved results are according to the speaker's wishes or hopes.

EXAMPLES

1. 何度 も 失敗を 重ねたが、ついに 実験に 成功した。
Nando mo shippai o kasaneta ga, tsui ni jikken ni seikō shita.
 I made many mistakes, but *in the end* I completed the experiment.
2. 長い 間 独身 を 続けていた彼女も、ついに この 春 結婚 す
Nagai aida dokushin o tsuzukete ita kanojo mo, tsui ni kono haru kekkon suru rashii.
 It looks like even she, who has long been living alone, will *finally* be getting married this spring.

SECTION B Negative Implication

In this case, *tsui ni* means that the outcome of a situation simply confirmed the speaker's fears or worries, and the expression conveys a negative implication.

refer to human actions. Section A describes something that is *thoroughly* considered, Section B something that is *greatly missed*, and Section C illustrates how it describes a gaze that is *earnest* or *intent*.

SECTION A To Consider Thoroughly, Deeply, Fully

As illustrated below, *tsuku-zuku* can be used to refer to something that has been pondered or considered *thoroughly* or which has been thought through *fully*.

EXAMPLES

1. つくづく 考えると、やっぱり老後は不安です。
Tsuku-zuku *kangaeru to*, *yappari rōgo wa fuan desu*.
When I *really* think about it, I feel old age is filled with anxiety.
2. きのうの夜 つくづくと考えて みましたが、この 仕事は
Kinō no yoru tsuku-zuku to kangaete mimashita ga, kono shigoto wa
私 に向かない と思います。
watakushi ni mukanai to omoimasu.
I considered it very *thoroughly* last night, and this work just
doesn't suit me.

SECTION B To Lament, To Long For

In contrast to Section A, when the expression *tsuku-zuku* is used in a more-or-less objective sense, as shown below, it carries an emotional feeling, one of *longing for*, or *lamenting*, or *grieving for* or *missing very much*. A feeling of *remorse* can also be implied.

EXAMPLES

3. 今度 のことで 自分には才能がないとつくづく 思い知った。
Kondo no koto de, jibun ni wa sainō ga nai to tsuku-zuku omoi-shitta.
This time I've *sadly* come to realize that I have no talent.
4. 何 も思う ようにならない世の 中 が つくづく いや になりま
Nani mo omou yō ni naranai yo no naka ga tsuku-zuku iya ni narima-
した。
shita.

I'm *sick of* this world in which nothing goes the way I want it to.

5. つくづく 思い出されるのは死んだ 息子のやさしさです。

Tsuku-zuku *omoi-dasareru no wa shinda musuko no yasashisa desu.*

What *grieves* me most is to recall how sweet my dead son was.

SECTION C To Gaze Earnestly

When a stare or gaze is *deep* or *penetrating*, the opposite of a quick or casual glance, **tsuku-zuku** is used as illustrated below.

EXAMPLES

6. 老人は 私 の顔をつくづく と見て、「お母様とそっくりだ」
Rōjin wa watakushi no kao o tsuku-zuku to mite, "Okāsama to sokkuri da"
 とつぶやいた。
to tsubuyaita.

The old man looked *intently* at my face, then mumbled, "You look just like your mother."

7. 病人 は やせ細った自分の手をつくづく と眺めていた。
Byōnin wa yasehosotta jibun no te o tsuku-zuku to nagamete ita.

The patient stared *intently* at his thin hand.

8. 茶道具屋 の 主人 は その 茶碗をつくづく と見ていたが、「間
Chadōgu-ya no shujin wa sono chawan o tsuku-zuku to mite ita ga, "Ma-
 違いありません、本物 の 古伊万里 です」と言った。
chigai arimasen, hommono no koimari desu" to itta.

The proprietor of the tea ceremony shop gazed *earnestly* at the tea bowl, then said, "No question, this is a real koimari-bowl."

Tsumari つまり in short, after all, in the end,
 in other words, in brief

EXPLANATION: The expression **tsumari** indicates some idea or piece of information that is being stated concisely, is being summed up, or is being restated by the speaker. It signals that the results of the topic under discussion are about to be stated, or restated.

SECTION A To State Briefly

To indicate that some conclusion to a topic will be summed up or stated concisely, the expression is used as illustrated below.

EXAMPLES

1. はっきり言ってください、つまり病気は直らないのですね。
Hakkiri itte kudasai, tsumari byōki wa naoranai no desu ne.
Please speak plainly. This sickness, *in short*, cannot be cured, is that correct?
2. あなたの 話 はよく分りませんが、つまり 何 が言いたいのですか。
Anata no hanashi wa yoku wakarimasen ga, tsumari nani ga itai no desu ka?
I can't understand what you are saying. What, *after all*, do you want to say?
3. 理由はいろいろあげられるが、つまり 予算が足りないということだ。
Riyū wa iro-iro agerareru ga, tsumari yosan ga tarinai to iu koto da.
All sorts of reasons can be given, but *in the end* the real reason is that there is not enough money in the budget.

SECTION B To Restate

Often, in both English and Japanese, when a conclusion to some topic has been stated, it is immediately restated, usually in a slightly more succinct manner. This usage of *tsumari* might be translated as *in other words*.

EXAMPLES

4. この間 なくなったのが 父の母の妹、つまり 私
Kono aida nakunatta no ga chichi no haha no imoto, tsumari watakushi
の大おばです。
no ōoba desu.
The person who died recently was my father's mother's sister, or *in other words*, my great aunt.

5. マンションとかコーポとかハイムとかいうのは、つまり高層住宅のことです。
Manshon toka kōpo toka haimu toka iu no wa, tsumari kōsōjū-taku no koto desu.

Words like mansion, co-op and heim mean, *in other words*, high-rise apartments.

6. 子どもを家庭でどのように導きしつけるべきかの問題、
Kodomo o katei de dono yō ni michibiki shitsukeru beki ka no mondai,
 つまり家庭教育の問題についてお話したいと思います。
tsumari katei-kyōiku no mondai ni tsuite o-hanashi shitai to omoimasu.

What I'd like to talk about is how families should give guidance to their children, or *in other words*, the question of discipline in the home.

Ukkari うっかり thoughtlessly, absent mindedly, carelessly

EXPLANATION: The expression **ukkarī** refers to something that was done without thinking (*thoughtlessly*) or which was done without having taken the necessary precautions (*carelessly*). It therefore also refers to something done *absent mindedly* or *by mistake*. Section A shows how it is used as an adverb and Section B gives examples of the expression as a verb.

SECTION A Thoughtlessly, Absent-Mindedly

In the examples below, **ukkarī** is used by itself and is simply inserted into the sentence, to indicate something that was done *carelessly* or *without thinking*. When used in this manner, **ukkarī** is similar to the expression *tsui* as discussed in this book under *Tsui*, Section C, where it refers to an unexpected outcome.

EXAMPLES

1. 話してはいけないと言われていたのに、うっかりしゃべってしまった。
Hanashite wa ikenai to iwarete ita noni, ukkarī shabette shimatta.

Although I was told not to mention it, I *thoughtlessly* told everything.

2. 電車 が 品川駅 に止ったのに、考えごとをしていてうっかり *Densha ga Shinagawa-eki ni tomatta noni, kangae-goto o shite ite ukkari* 乗り過ごしてしまった。
ri nori-sugoshite shimatta.

Although the train stopped at Shinagawa Station, while thinking about something I *absent-mindedly* rode the train past the station.

3. 教室 では 日本語 以外 話して はいけないと言われていたの *Kyoshitsu de wa Nihongo igai hanashite wa ikenai to iwarete ita no-* に、うっかり 英語 を使ってしまった。
ni, ukkari Eigo o tsukatte shimatta.

Although I had been told to only use Japanese in the classroom, I *absent-mindedly* used English.

SECTION B Absent-Mindedly, Carelessly

The meaning of **ukkari** as given below is essentially the same as that shown in Section A above. The difference is that below the expression becomes a verb, **ukkari suru**, which means to *do something thoughtlessly*, or to *do something carelessly*. One form which this expression often takes in popular usage is **ukkari shite iru to** (*if you do something carelessly...*).

EXAMPLES

4. この 道 は 車 が多いですから、うっかりしていると 危険 *Kono michi wa kuruma ga ōi desu kara, ukkari shite iru to kiken* ですよ。
desu yo.

Since there is a lot of traffic on the road, it's dangerous *if you're not careful*.

5. 最近 はよく眠れて、うっかりしていると 朝 寝 過 ぎ して しま う。
Saikin wa yoku nemurete, ukkari shite iru to asa ne-sugoshite shimau.

I've been sleeping so well lately that *if I'm not careful* I'll oversleep.

6. うっかりして 手紙に 切手をはらないで ポストに入れてしまっ
 Ukkari shite tegami ni kitte o haranaide posuto ni irete shimat-
 た。
 ta.

I *absent-mindedly* put the letter in the mailbox without a stamp.

Waza-waza わざわざ take the trouble to, especially,
 on purpose, deliberately, knowingly

EXPLANATION: This expression is usually inserted directly in front of the verb or verb phrase, and it does not take any particles. It can appear in both positive and negative statements, although it usually refers to a slightly negative circumstance. In most common usage, it refers to a negative or unpleasant situation.

SECTION A Polite / Positive Usage

In cases where the expression is used in a positive sense, it is usually a polite way of acknowledging that someone has done something troublesome as a courtesy to the speaker.

EXAMPLES

1. わざわざいらっしゃって くださって 本当にありがとうございます。
 Waza-waza irasshatte kudasatte hontō ni arigato gozaimasu.
 I am really very grateful that you *took the trouble* to come here today.
2. お忙しいところ、わざわざ お返事を くださって ありがとうございます。
 O-isogashii tokoro, waza-waza o-henji o kudasatte arigato gozai-
 masu.

I know you are busy, so I'm grateful you *were able* to reply.

SECTION B Negative Implication, Because of Circumstances

Used in this sense, the expression indicates something which happened that was unexpected or not desired by the speaker, causing the speaker to fail in gaining a desired goal.

EXAMPLES

3. 雨の中をわざわざ神田まで行ったのに、欲しい本は買え
Ame no naka o waza-waza Kanda made itta noni, hoshii hon wa kae-
 なかった。
nakatta.

In the rain I *managed* to make it to Kanda, but was unable to buy the book I wanted.

4. 大切な会議を欠席してわざわざ出掛けたのに、友人は留守
Taisetsu na kaigi o kesseki shite waza-waza dekaketa noni, yujin wa rusu
 だった。
datta.

I *especially* absented myself from the important meeting in order to make a call on my friend, only to find he had gone out.

SECTION C Negative Implication, Indicating Annoyance

In this very common usage, the expression indicates a strong reaction of dislike, and a feeling of annoyance or implied disapproval of the actions of others.

EXAMPLES

5. いやだと言うのに、あの人はわざわざ私の前でたば
Iya da to iu noni, ano hito wa waza-waza watakushi no mae de taba-
 こを吸っている。
ko o sutte iru.

Although I said I did not like it, that fellow is *deliberately* smoking in front of me.

6. 最近 は 新しい 服をわざわざきたなくして 着ている 若者が
Saikin wa atarashii fuku o waza-waza kitanaku shite kiteiru wakamono ga
 いる。
iru.

Recently I have seen young people wearing new clothes that they had *purposely* made dirty.

Yahari やはり too, as well, as expected, still, but then
Yappari やっぱり

EXPLANATION: Both pronunciations of this expression, **yahari** and **yappari** are acceptable, though **yappari** tends to be used in more informal conversation. The expression indicates a continuity, in the sense that some prior situation, attitude or condition has not changed and continues to be true. See Section A. However, the reasons for this continuity can vary slightly, for example either because of some basic logic governing the condition or only because of the speaker's personal prediction. The slightly differing nuances of this expression are illustrated in Sections B through D. Its use as a conversational interjection is shown in Section E.

SECTION A Indicating Continuity

This usage employs the basic meaning of the expression, to indicate that a prior situation or condition remains the same as before, or that the prior condition will continue. It indicates that the current situation is a direct result of the previous situation.

EXAMPLES

- きのうも蒸し暑かったが、今日もやはり蒸し暑い。
Kinō mo mushi-atsukatta ga, kyō mo yahari mushi-atsui.
 It was muggy yesterday, so it is muggy today too.

- 先月も赤字だったが、今月もやはり赤字だ。
Sengetsu mo akaji datta ga, kongetsu mo yahari akaji da.

They were in the red last month, and they are in the red this month as well.

SECTION B Expressing a Logical Outcome

The expression **yahari** can be used to indicate the speaker's prediction that some situation or event will develop in an expected manner because of some logical chain of reasoning which must apply. It can be used by itself as a response to someone else, in which case the speaker is agreeing to the probable outcome of events. For

example, if someone says, "They say that company might go bankrupt this month," an appropriate agreeing answer would be "**yahari**," (They *probably* will).

EXAMPLES

3. 朝の天気予報で雨になると言っていたが、やはり午後から
Asa no tenki-yohō de ame ni naru to itte ita ga, yahari gogo kara
雨が降り出した。
ame ga furi-dashita.

On the morning news they were saying it was likely to rain, and *sure enough* it began to rain in the afternoon.

4. あの会社は大分前から景気がよくないようだったが、やはり
Ano kaisha wa daibu mae kara keiki ga yoku nai yō datta ga, yahari
先月倒産した。
sengetsu tōsan shita.

Business has not seemed very good for that company for quite a while, and *as expected* the company went bankrupt last month.

5. A: あの会社は倒産するかも知れませんよ。
Ano kaisha wa tōsan suru kamo shiremasen yo.

A: You know, that company may go bankrupt.

B: やはり。
Yahari.

B: *Probably.* (Yes, it *probably* will.)

6. A: 山田さんと鈴木さんはこの春結婚するそうですよ。
Yamada-san to Suzuki-san wa kono haru kekkon suru sō desu yo.

A: I hear Yamada-san and Suzuki-san will get married this spring.

B: やっぱり。
Yappari.

B: *Probably.* (Yes, *I think so.*)

SECTION C Result of Personal Thinking

A common usage of **yahari** is to indicate that the speaker has thought over some issue and, even after thinking it through, continues to have the same opinion as previously. Used in this sense,

the expression might be translated as *still*.

EXAMPLES

7. 欠点 もあるが、やはり 私は彼女が好きだ。
Ketten mo aru ga, yahari watakushi wa kanojo ga suki da.
 In spite of some faults, I *still* like her.
8. 父 は家業を継げと言うが、やはり 私は医者になろう。
Chichi wa kagyō o tsuge to iu ga, yahari watakushi wa isha ni narō,
 Father said I should carry on the family business, but I am still *determined* to become a doctor.

SECTION D Development According to Common Sense

Often **yahari** indicates that some situation or condition is developing just as everyone thought it would, based on common sense.

EXAMPLES

9. やはり、日本 の 富士山は美しい。
Yahari, Nippon no Fujisan wa utsukushi.
 Japan's Mt. Fuji is, *after all*, beautiful.
10. 日本 の 花は、やはり 桜でしょう。
Nihon no hana wa, yahari sakura deshō.
 The *typical* Japanese flower is the sakura, isn't it?

SECTION E Conversational Interjection

Yahari or **yappari** is used often as a conversational interjection. When used in such a manner its specific meaning is open to many possible translations because it is, strictly speaking, not absolutely necessary to the meaning of the sentence, except to the degree that it helps the flow of conversation. Any one of the possible nuances illustrated above might be implied in the interjection, though not necessarily only those given above.

EXAMPLES

11. 休日 ですか、やっぱり うちで テレビなんか みていることが
Kyūjitsu desu ka, yappari uchi de terebi nanka mite iru koto ga

多いです。

ōi desu.

On holidays I *usually* stay home and do things like watch television.

12. すきな映画は、やはりミュージカルですね。

Suki na eiga wa, yahari myujikaru desu ne.

Well, when it comes to films, I like musicals best.

Yatara ni やたらに recklessly, rashly, carelessly,
randomly, disorderly

EXPLANATION: The basic meaning of this expression is *carelessly* and *disorderly*, and by extension it means something done *haphazardly*, *randomly* or *rashly*. It gives a sense of the opposite of anything that is precisely, purposefully or carefully done.

EXAMPLES

1. この辺はやたらに家が建って、緑がほとんどなくなってしまう。
Kono hen wa yatara ni ie ga tatte, midori ga hotondo nakunatte shima-

tta.

Homes were *recklessly* put up in this area, and now there is almost no green left.

2. いくら好きでも、そうやたらに酒を飲んでは体によくありませんよ。

rimasen yo.

Eventhough you like it, it's not good for you to drink *so much* sake.

3. 彼は「やっぱり」という言葉を覚えたばかりで、この頃やたらに使っている。

ni tsukatte iru.

Since he has just learned the word "yappari," he uses it *too* often.

Yatto やっと finally, at last, just, barely, scarcely, only

EXPLANATION: This expression carries with it a slight feeling of hesitancy, delay, or the presence of a limiting factor. For example, as shown in Section A, it indicates that after a long period of time or after a lengthy process, some desired goal has *at last* been reached. As explained in Sections B and C, it can refer to a goal which was just *barely* reached, again indicating a feeling of hesitancy. In both usages there is, behind the surface meaning of the expression, a lack of certainty that the goal would be reached, and an unenthusiastic acknowledgement that it has *finally* been reached.

SECTION A At Last

When used as illustrated below, *yatto* gives the feeling of being set free from some restrictions or of being set free from anxiety. It conveys the sense that after a long period of time, or after some difficulties, a desired goal has *finally* or *at long last* been reached.

EXAMPLES

1. 厳しく つらい 訓練期間 が やっと 終わった。

Kibishiku tsurai kunren-kan ga yatto owatta.

The period of strict training was *finally* over.

2. 成人式 を迎えて、子どもっぽかった 娘 が やっと おとならしく なった。

natta.

With the coming-of-age ceremony my daughter, who had been so child-like, *at last* began to act like a woman. (Note that the use of *yatto* in this sentence implies that the speaker had some concern about his daughter and felt perhaps she was late in learning to act as an adult. Every year in Japan on 15 January coming-of-age ceremonies and parties are held throughout the country to honor those who have just reached the age of twenty, which is considered to mark their change into the status of an adult.)

3. いつもすれ違いだったふたりが、六年後 に やっとめぐり会えた。
Itsumo sure-chigai datta futari ga, rokunen-go ni yatto meguri-aeita.

After six years, those two who had always passed by each other *finally* chanced to meet.

SECTION B Just, Barely

Yatto also indicates a condition in which a goal has *just barely* been reached. Used in this way it refers to the lowest acceptable level of some condition.

EXAMPLES

4. 彼の英語は 新聞 が やっと読める 程度です。
Kare no Eigo wa shimbun ga yatto yomeru teido desu.

His English is *just* good enough to read a newspaper.

5. 少い 収入 で、親子 四人 やっと 生きている。
Sukunai shūnyū de, oya-ko yo-nin yatto ikite iru.

The four people, parents and children, *barely* kept alive with a small income.

6. 希望する 大学 に やっと 補欠 で 入れた。
Kibō suru daigaku ni yatto hoketsu de haireta.

I just *barely* got into the university I wanted as part of a quota. (i.e., the literal meaning is that the person was accepted as an alternate chosen to fill the quota set by the university.)

SECTION C Just, Barely (with *desu*)

Yatto can also be used as shown below with the word *desu*, in which case it carries the same meanings as shown in Section B.

EXAMPLES

7. 私の能力では、予備校に入るの が やっと です。
Watakushi no nōryoku de wa, yobikō ni hairu no ga yatto desu.

With my abilities I'll *barely* be able to get into a cram school. (Japan has many preparatory or cram schools which are run as commercial businesses and are designed to train people to be able to pass school entrance examinations.) The speaker here is saying that he probably could not get into a university, and

will only barely be able to get into a preparatory cram school.
A similar nuance is carried by sentence no. 8 below.

8. 私 の 能力 では、高校を 卒業 するのがやっとなです。
Watakushi no nōryoku de wa, kōkō o sotsugyō suru no ga yatto desu.
With my low abilities, I'll *barely* be able to graduate from high school.
9. この 不況 では、従業員 に 給料を払う のがやっとなです。
Kono fukyō de wa, jūgyōin ni kyūryō o harau no ga yatto desu.
With this business slump I can *scarcely* pay my employees.
10. この 英文 の 翻訳 は、一日 五頁 がやっとなです。
Kono Ei-bun no hon'yaku wa, ichi-nichi go-petji ga yatto desu.
I can *only* translate five pages a day of this English language piece.

Yomoya よもや surely not, absolutely not, impossible,
not very likely

EXPLANATION: **Yomoya** is similar in meaning to the Japanese expression *masaka*. Both have a negative implication and refer to something or some condition which will not occur, but of the two **yomoya** is the stronger and it refers to situations whose occurrence would be an impossibility. Its negative implication is very definite.

EXAMPLES

1. 将来 日本 が戦争を引き起こすことはよもやないだろう。
Shōrai Nihon ga sensō o hiki-okosu koto wa yomoya nai darō.
Surely Japan will not go to war in the future.
2. よもやあの 人が 犯人 ではないだろう。
Yomoya ano hito ga han'nin de wa nai darō.
It is *most unlikely* that he is the criminal.
3. いつも 清潔 な政治を唱えている 彼が、よもや買収されるとは
Itsumo seiketsu na seiji o tonaete iru kare ga, yomoya baishū sareru to wa
思ってもみなかった。
omotte mo minakatta.

Since he is always preaching about clean government, I *never suspected* he was a person who could be bought. (I was surprised to hear he was bought.)

Yōyaku ようやく finally, at last

EXPLANATION: **Yōyaku** indicates that some situation is gradually changing after a rather long or slow process has been taking place. It expresses a note of guarded optimism that a future improvement can be hoped for.

EXAMPLES

1. 教えはじめて 三年, 彼の 発音 はようやく 日本語 らしく なつてきた。
Oshie-hajimete san-nen, kare no hatsuon wa yōyaku Nihongo rashiku nate kita.

I've been teaching him for three years now, and his pronunciation *finally* sounds like Japanese.

2. ようやく 薬 がきいてきたようです。熱 が下ってきました。
Yōyaku kusuri ga kiite kita yō desu. Netsu ga sagatte kimashita.
At last it seems the medicine has taken effect. The fever has gone down.

3. 発育 が悪いと 心配 していたけれど, ようやく うちの子も歩きはじめた。
Hatsuiku ga warui to shimpai shite ita keredo, yōyaku uchi no ko mo aruki-hajimeta.

I was worried that our child's development was poor, but *finally* he began to walk.